WARREN MAGAZINE

SPIRIT #14

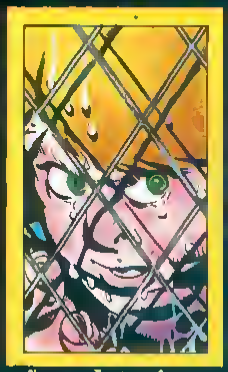
JUNE 1976

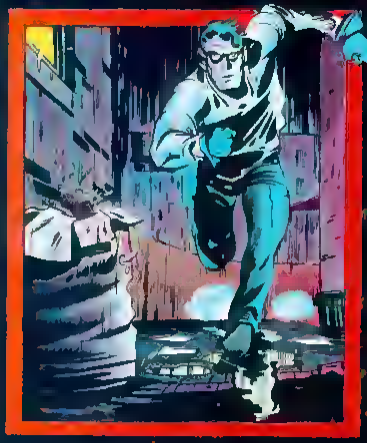
SPIRIT

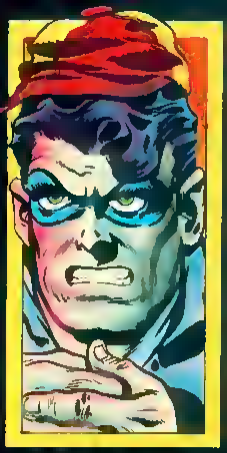
By Will Eisner

$1.25

92809 PDC



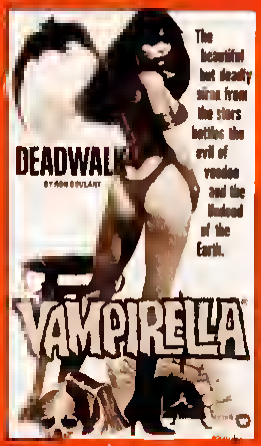




VAMPIRELLA PAPERBACK NOVELS!

BLOODSTALK recreates the spectacular origin of VAMPIRELLA! A refugee in a returning explorer rocket whisked from her dying planet where blood flowed in rivers VAMPIRELLA must learn to kill or adapt or die! Surrounded by powerful enemies like the Cult of the mad god Chaos she avoids the blind vampire slayer Conrad Van Helsing. Befriended by his son Adam and by the magician Pendragon she pits herself against the evil Cult of Chaos and helplessly slakes her ever present thirst for human blood! #21194/$1.25

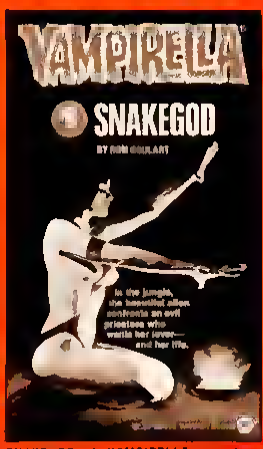
ON ALIEN WINGS takes VAMPIRELLA to a secluded Hollywood estate where the owner has devised a formula for immortality involving a blood starved VAMPIRELLA! On the Hollywood estate on a restful Caribbean cruise on a desert island she and Pendragon are hounded by threats of evil the demonically macabre the Cult of Chaos! Pursued incessantly by Conrad Van Helsing who must fight the growing affection of his son for the beautiful murderous alien she must bow to her fate or conquer it! #21196/$1.25



DEADWALK brings voodoo, zombies and human sacrifice into direct conflict with VAMPIRELLA's vow to fight the evil Cult of Chaos. Dread forces conspire to destroy Pendragon and capture VAMPIRELLA the perfect candidate for human sacrifice by the dastardly Papa Jambee and his zombies. The glitter filled world of rock seems an unlikely haven for the walking dead, but to VAMPIRELLA's dismay, a zombie stalks the frantic world of rock musicians. Aided by Adam, VAMPIRELLA wages battle against Chaos! #21197/$1.25

BLOOD WEDDING! Words to chill even a soul as stout and strong as VAMPIRELLA's! Lured to the secluded castle of the mysterious Count Mordante by promises of a goodly audience and excellent remuneration, VAMPIRELLA and Pendragon find that they have been chosen to provide a deadly and macabre entertainment. The Count has devised a dramatic finale to VAMPIRELLA's act! He had scheduled her appearance in a command performance as the bride of the mad god she has sworn to fight the evil, insane Chaos. #21207/$1.25

DEATHGAME takes VAMPIRELLA to the sun filled, fun filled Riviera where men, fascinated by gambling, stake their lives on the turn of the wheel. Here VAMPIRELLA too falls victim to temptation. The sun lulls her fears the lapping waters weaken her resolve. Against reason, she is lured into a forbidden love with a man she cannot resist a man whose dangerous connections with the voraciously evil Cult of Chaos can be the undoing of the beautiful, deadly vampiress! #21208/$1.25



SNAKEGOD pits VAMPIRELLA against an enemy more vicious than any she has yet encountered. The incredible Cobra Queen! Priestess of a religious cult deep in the jungles of Southeast Asia! Able to transform at will into the body of a deadly venomous snake! Presiding over profane rites in a vast ruined jungle temple. Owner of vast tabled treasure of gold and jewels. The Cobra Queen wants Adam Van Helsing in exchange for her mortally wounded lover and consort. And she wants VAMPIRELLA dead! #21209/$1.25

VAMPIRELLA, THE WORLD'S FIRST COMIC STRIP HEROINE, COMES TO PAPERBACK! SIX FULL-LENGTH, ORIGINAL NOVELS FEATURE THE ADVENTURES OF THE BEAUTIFUL AND DEADLY EXTRATERRESTRIAL VAMPIRESS! VAMPIRELLA... BET YOU CAN'T READ JUST ONE!

OUR COVER
Presenting the vital ... the exciting ... the pugnalistic ... the colorful SPIRIT! Cover courtesy of the phenomenal talent of Will Eisner with life-like color by Bill DuBay!

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THE SPIRIT®

BY WILL EISNER

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JUNE 1976

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12 THE CHASE Woody was a maniac. He escaped from the state hospital. Woody was heading after the brother who had put him away. And into battle with THE SPIRIT!

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41 THE TEACHER Riverhead University? French 101? Whatever could persuade THE SPIRIT to enroll? A case involving Acyd's Metal Alloy Test. And, of course, P'Gell!

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57 DAN GREER Greer ran every bookie joint in Central City. And he always won. Till he decided to murder rival bookie, Big Ed. And tangled with THE SPIRIT!

65 THE FIRST MAN Herkimer Zither had a hobby . . . being "first." On subways. Over bridges. Now he would be first to enter the new tunnel. Or die trying!

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THE SPIRIT'S DEAD LETTERS

I've been a SPIRIT fan since #1. The best thing about the magazine is that there is so much variety in each issue.

A fine mixture of incredible people, in believable situations makes for an evening's enjoyment with each and every new SPIRIT.

But SPIRIT #13 had to be the greatest ever. Every story was a masterpiece! "Water" was my favorite, but not by much over "The Valentine." Who sez "13" is an unlucky number? Not for SPIRIT fans, that's for sure!

P. OWEN
Easton, Pa.

Brilliant is the only word for SPIRIT #13. **Will Eisner** consistently creates the most human, the most realistic characters ever to be found in a comic magazine.

He always manages to draw some emotional response from his readers, whether its laughter, or tears, or sometimes even anger. It takes a true artist to be able to make people feel a part of your story! **Eisner** is the **Shakespeare** of comics!

MATTHEW CARROLL
Boise, Idaho

I have just finished reading "The Valentine" and it's a week after Valentine's day. The story was just great! The way it combined sympathy with the ridiculous made it all the more funny, and kept me glued from panel to panel as the story became more involved.

"Ten Minutes," in the same issue, had a most interesting use of time, involving the notes to the reader, the time span of the story itself and a quick little joke in the final panel. I couldn't figure out though, whether the scene took place at 10:30 a.m. or p.m. as the baseball game was ending, but the children were out playing on the sidewalk and in the candy store.

KIMBERLY KNOX
Fountain Valley, Cal.

By far the best story in SPIRIT #13 was "Tunnel." In fact it's the best SPIRIT story I have read in quite a while. I had no doubts that the SPIRIT would emerge OK, but when the explosion happened, I started to worry.

That was really something, the way the guy read the dead man's mind.

My only wish is that your magazine was in color.

JIM BEAN
Orono, Maine

Being a member of the "over 40" group and not having read a "comic book" in years, I happened upon your April issue of THE SPIRIT.

I especially enjoyed "The Valentine." How ironic that the lives of four people can be changed so drastically by the sending of four innocent cards.

I find THE SPIRIT a delight and a refreshing diversion from the pressures of the day.

MARIE DANIEL
Hebron, Conn.

Ours is a time of nostalgia . . . a time when the past is revered for its "old-fashionedness." And in most cases, the praise is undeserved. Not so with THE SPIRIT.

I am rarely impressed by "Golden Age" comics. They are usually crude, childishly simplistic, and painfully dated. They have no artistic function, other than to stir fond memories, within their readers. Again . . . not so with THE SPIRIT.

Will Eisner's work falls into that rare category of "period pieces" that deserves to be revived, not because it is "camp" but because it is quality. Like **Raymond Chandler**, **Eisner** brought to a popular genre of fiction, a new level of sophistication and intelligence, and most of all, craftsmanship, resulting in a body of work that is timeless. THE SPIRIT is not nostalgia, because it is as relevant to our contemporary society as it was to the people of its own era.

That fact alone is a testimonial to the genius of **Will Eisner**.

JOSEPH FOYER
Brockton, Mass.

Special Valentine Issue? I hope that's not what SPIRIT #13 was supposed to be! Valentine's Day should be a light, romantic holiday, and SPIRIT #13 had some of the most depressing stories ever in the magazine.

Even "The Valentine" had a unhappy ending, at least for the poor mail clerk!

Come on, Mr. **Eisner**, cheer up! Life can't be that bad!

BERT KLING
Isola, NY

I'm lucky. You said it would take 10 minutes to read "Ten Minutes" in SPIRIT #13. It only took me three, which is seven less minutes that I didn't have to waste on very possibly the worst SPIRIT story I've ever seen.

Poor **Freddy**! A nice guy gone bad. How did he just happen to have a gun with him? Was his sad, tormented life so bad, especially with all the friends he seemed to have? I don't have any friends, and I don't feel like **Freddy** did.

Freddy was a creep. He deserved what he got. But I'm not a creep and I don't deserve lousy stories like that for my buck and a quarter.

BILL GRIM
New York, N.Y.

It seemed appropriate to me that SPIRIT #13 was the first issue of our bicentennial year, since in many ways, it provided a thought-provoking picture of the proverbial "American Dream."

It can be seen in the capitalistic greed of **Slim Mozzle** ("Water") or in **Jimson Weede's** determination to "make something of himself in the big city."

Most of all, it is seen in **Freddy**, the doomed hero of "10 Minutes" who seeks to pull himself out of the slums and begin a new life, no matter who is hurt in the process.

More often than not, the American Dream turns sour, and the dreamer becomes a victim of his own ambitions.

The moral behind these little fables is never made quite clear, but certainly provides grounds for thought.

SARA FONTAINE
Memphis, Tenn.

I have just finished reading the story of **Gerhard Shnobble**. The first page is very comical . . . "This is not a funny story" is enough to make anyone laugh, especially after looking at the character.

I liked the story, but I thought the character was abused. You built him up then let him down hard. And in this story, he falls real hard.

DEBRA PASQUALE
Pawtucket, R.I.

Just picked up my first copy of your great magazine, and you can count me in as a new SPIRIT fan. But please . . . conjure up another story about **Gerhard Shnobble**, the Everyman symbol who becomes the target of a bullet marked for the SPIRIT. While I understand that somebody has to take the rap for the SPIRIT, else how could he reappear next month, as a **Shnobble** sympathizer, I hated to see him killed off.

Please, not so heartless next time. Let the SPIRIT's victims be limited to bad-guy types. I can't take the empathy pangs.

But seriously, **Will Eisner's** artwork on this story seems to lay new groundwork for comic art of the future.

I count myself lucky to have discovered this magazine in 1976, even if it is 27 years after the fact.

KAREN KRUPKE
Denver, Colo.

Over the source of thirteen issues of THE SPIRIT, I've noticed an interesting, continuing theme. **Will Eisner** seems to be obsessed with the idea of fate.

Sure, THE SPIRIT is a hero, but very rarely by his own doing. He gets beat up, knocked around, and when he does succeed, it's usually because of pure dumb luck, and not any great ability on his own part.

On the other hand, his supporting characters are also victims of forces beyond their control. In issue #13, for example, we have **Gerhard Shnobble**, **Slim Mozzle**, and **Freddy** . . . all of whom meet a dire end, not so much because of any wrongdoing on their part as, but because of bad luck, period.

Eisner obviously has a great deal of sympathy for the born loser, but by presenting so many stories in which man seems to have no control over his destiny, **Eisner** ultimately paints a pessimistic world.

Even so, **Eisner's** sensitivity, wit, and keen sense of irony make it not only tolerable but enjoyable!

Keep 'em coming!

TOMPALL NELSON
Austin, Tex.

ENVY THE SPIRIT!

His days are filled with crime fighting. His nights with romance. But every now and then he needs a stiff dose of reality. Let him have it! Write THE SPIRIT!

THE SPIRIT'S DEAD LETTERS
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
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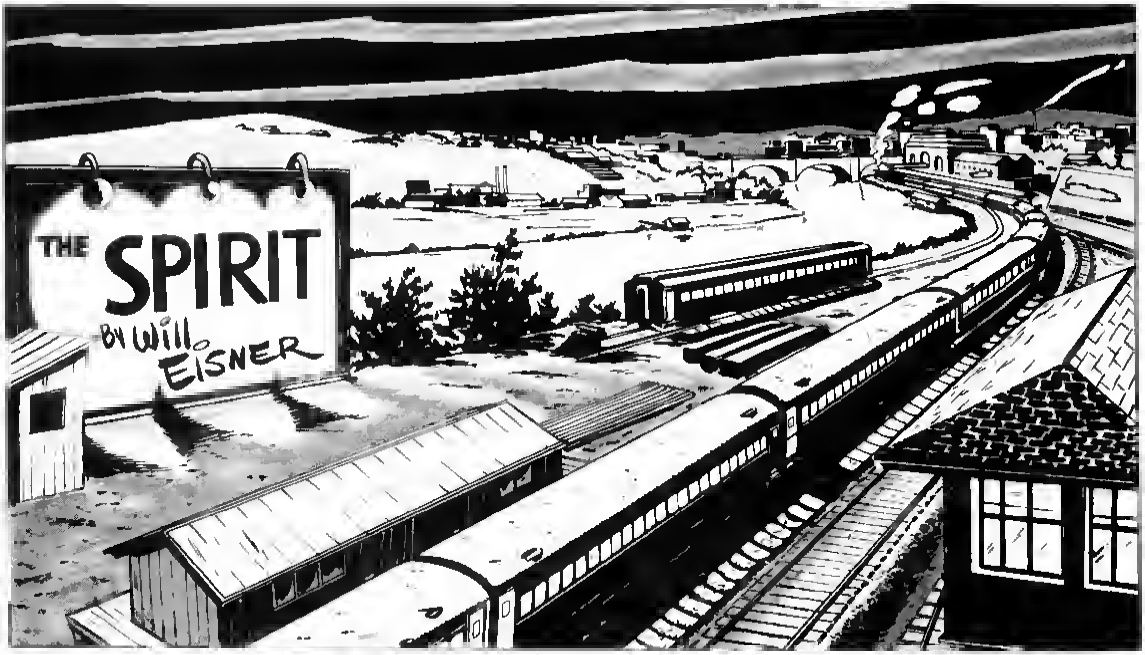
Dick Whittler

The town of Riverbend lies sixty miles south of Central City ....it has a population of 3,000 and a police force of fifteen.



It is a typically quiet little suburban community..... Nothing ever happens there.....

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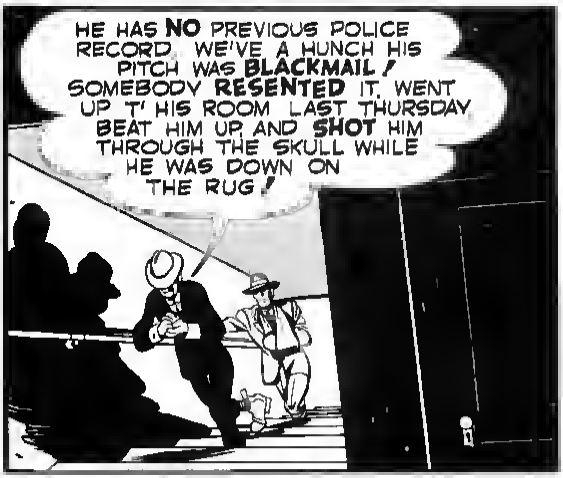
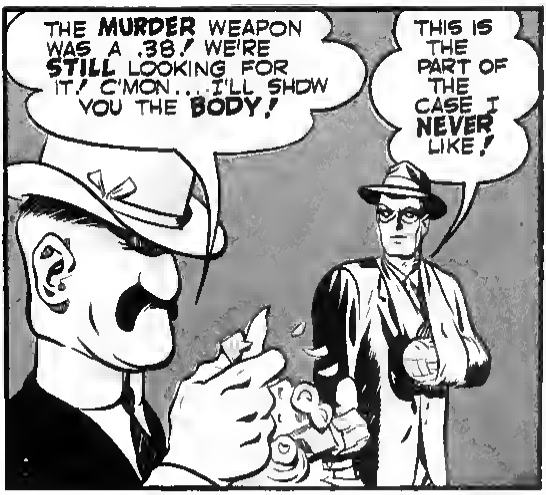
GLAD Y' COULD MAKE IT, SPIRIT. NEVER HAD A KILLIN' BEFORE! IT'S GOT ME DOWN! ....WHAT'S WRONG WITH YER ARM?
A BAD SPRAIN... I MET A GUY WITH A STEEL JAW LAST WEEK!
PARKING SPACE
POLICE

TAKE US TO THE HOTEL, JOHNNY... THAT'S WHERE THIS "SMITH" GOT KILLED, SPIRIT! WE'LL HAVE A BITE T' EAT ON THE WAY!
"SMITH", EH? GOT ANY LEADS, DICK?

ONE OR TWO... HE WAS IN TOWN A WEEK... REGISTERED AS JOSEPH SMITH... NO LUGGAGE... PAID IN ADVANCE.. WE FOUND THAT HE HAD SENT TWO OR THREE LETTERS TO CENTRAL CITY! THE BELL HOP MAILED THEM... HE REMEMBERED THEY WERE ADDRESSED TO SOME POLICE OFFICIAL!
HOTEL
SCREEEE


HE HAS NO PREVIOUS POLICE RECORD. WE'VE A HUNCH HIS PITCH WAS BLACKMAIL! SOMEBODY RESENTED IT, WENT UP T' HIS ROOM LAST THURSDAY BEAT HIM UP AND SHOT HIM THROUGH THE SKULL WHILE HE WAS DOWN ON THE RUG!

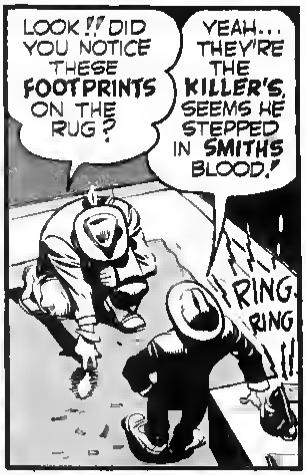
THIS WAS HIS ROOM. IT WAS RANSACKED LIKE THIS WHEN WE FOUND HIM! THE KILLER WAS OBVIOUSLY LOOKING FOR SOMETHING! WE FOUND NO FINGERPRINTS ....JUST SMUDGES!
WHAT A MESS!
10


THE MURDER WEAPON WAS A .38! WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR IT! C'MON... I'LL SHOW YOU THE BODY!
THIS IS THE PART OF THE CASE I NEVER LIKE!

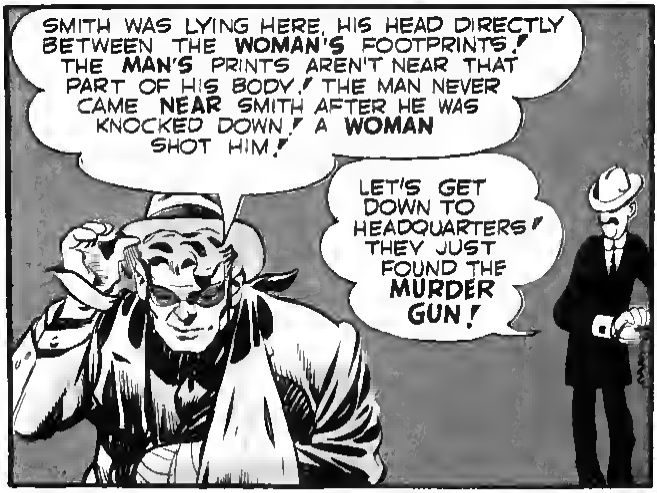
THE CHIMES IN THE CHURCH STEEPLE RING OUT NINE O'CLOCK. ...IT BEGINS TO RAIN.
"SMITH, JOSEPH"... HERE HE IS WHITTLER NICE EMBALMIN JOB HUH ?
OKAY! ROY OKAY!
HMM HE WAS A POWERFUL LOOKING GUY... I'D GUESS HIS AGE WAS ABOUT FIFTY! HE MUST HAVE PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT!
HIS ASSAILANT WAS BETTER! WE'RE WORKIN' ON THE COP ANGLE! ONLY A GUY WHO KNEW HOW TO FIGHT COULD DO A JOB AS NEAT AS THIS WITHOUT CUTTING THE GUY UP!
IT MIGHT EXPLAIN THE LETTERS HE SENT OUT!
YEAH! WE'RE WORKING ON THE ANGLE THAT THE KILLER CAME FROM CENTRAL CITY! SOMEHOW "SMITH" LOOKS FAMILIAR! WHAT D'YOU THINK!
I THINK I WANT TO GO OVER THAT HOTEL ROOM WITH A FINE TOOTH COMB ..LET'S GO!
TWO BALLS AND TWO STRIKES ON THE BATTER...WINSLOW IS IN A HOLE NOW RUNNERS LEAD OFF.. THERE'S THE PITCH!!
@*!*☆!!@*! WE'LL NEVER WIN THE PENNANT, WITH THAT WINSLOW ON THE MOUND!
CRACK
AND THERE IT IS! A LONG TOWERING DRIVE—
YOU SCOOT AROUND BY Y'SELF, SPIRIT! I'M GONNA LISTEN TO THE END OF THE GAME!
SURE, WHAT'S A MURDER BETWEEN FRIENDS ?
THE STANDS ARE GOING CRAZY A HOMER! A HOMER!

FIND ANYTHING ?
NOOp. NOT A CLUE!

HOW'D THE BALL GAME COME OUT?
WINSLOW LOADED THE BASES AGAIN. COULDN'T BEAR TO HEAR ANYMORE!


LOOK!! DID YOU NOTICE THESE FOOTPRINTS ON THE RUG?
YEAH... THEY'RE THE KILLER'S, SEEMS HE STEPPED IN SMITHS BLOOD!
RING RING!!!

NO, I DON'T MEAN A MAN'S PRINT! LOOK HERE! THIS MARK IS A LOT FAINTER. THE BLOOD MUST HAVE DRIED A BIT BY THE TIME THE FOOT STEPPED IN IT. IT'S A WOMAN'S HEEL PRINT!
HELLO! YEH, THIS IS WHITTLER!


SMITH WAS LYING HERE, HIS HEAD DIRECTLY BETWEEN THE WOMAN'S FOOTPRINTS! THE MAN'S PRINTS AREN'T NEAR THAT PART OF HIS BODY! THE MAN NEVER CAME NEAR SMITH AFTER HE WAS KNOCKED DOWN! A WOMAN SHOT HIM!
LET'S GET DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS! THEY JUST FOUND THE MURDER GUN!

A HALF HOUR LATER..
THIS IS IT ALL RIGHT! Y' SAY Y' FOUND IT IN A PIPE DRAIN ON HOUSTON SQUARE, MURRAY?
THAT'S RIGHT, LT. WHITTLER!
PD
WHAT A SET UP! SOMEBODY BEATS UP SMITH, THEN SOMEBODY ELSE.. THIS TIME A WOMAN...COMES UP AND SHOOTS HIM! A REAL POPULAR GUY, THIS FELLOW SMITH!
SHOULD I TAKE THE GUN UP TO BALLISTICS?
NO, PUT IT BACK WHERE YOU FOUND IT!
EH??
THEN INFORM THE NEWSPAPERS, YOU'VE FOUND THE MURDER GUN! I THINK OUR LADY KILLER IS GOING TO WALK RIGHT INTO OUR LAPS!
ALL NIGHT THE MEN WAIT...THE NEWSPAPERS COME OUT WITH THE STORY AND THEY WAIT...
WAAH
SHADDAP THAT KID, WILL YA!
THE RAIN STOPS... THEY WAIT... IT STARTS AGAIN..STILL THEY WAIT....
GOOD MORNING, THIS IS YOUR SEVEN O'CLOCK NEWS
A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE SLAYING OF JOSEPH SMITH WAS ANNOUNCED LATE LAST NIGHT...
CLICK!
CLICK!
POLICE LIEUTENANT DICK WHITTLER HAS REVEALED THAT THE MURDER WEAPON HAS BEEN FOUND!..
AN ARREST IS EXPECTED MOMENTARILY!
DON'T SCREAM, MISS! WE'RE POLICE OFFICERS! WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS!

LATER AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
WELL ?
SHE CONFESSED HE WAS HER HUSBAND. HIS REAL NAME WAS MICHAEL O'DOLAN
HELLO, GEORGE? SEND ME UP A HAM ON WHITE... NO CRUST ON THE WHITE...AND A WARM MILK YUP, MY ULCERS AGAIN....
WHY DID SHE DO IT ?
AND... SEND DOWN THE LAB REPORTS ON THE SMITH CASE!...OH YEAH BRING DOWN A SET OF HANDCUFFS!
ANY LINE ON WHO BEAT UP SMITH OR O'DOLAN ?
YUP! SHE HADN'T SEEN HIM IN FIVE YEARS. HE CAME BACK AND STARTED MAKING THINGS TOUGH FOR HER! HE SAID A COP RELATIVE OF HIS IN CENTRAL CITY WOULD PAY HIM WELL, TO STAY OUT OF SIGHT!
HE WANTED HER TO KEEP HIM IN DOUGH UNTIL THIS RELATIVE PAID UP! SHE WENT UP TO HIS ROOM WITH THE GUN!...FOUND HIM BEATEN UP AND THE ROOM RANSACKED! SHE KILLED HIM! I FEEL SORRY FOR HER!
SO??
I DIDN'T SHOW THIS REPORT BEFORE. THE LAB'S BEEN EXAMINING SOME TORN BITS OF LEATHER, FOUND IN O'DOLAN'S HAND! THEY'RE PIECES OF A BLUE GLOVE!
LET'S SEE!
YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO READ IT LATER...YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR THE ASSAULT OF MICHAEL O'DOLAN!
CLICK!

SO YOU WERE JUST PLAYING GAMES WITH ME, EH?
I HAD A HUNCH ALL ALONG, BUT I WASN'T SURE 'TILL I SAW YOUR SPRAINED ARM, AND THIS TRAIN TICKET STUB I LIFTED FROM YOUR POCKET WHILE WE WERE IN THE MORGUE!

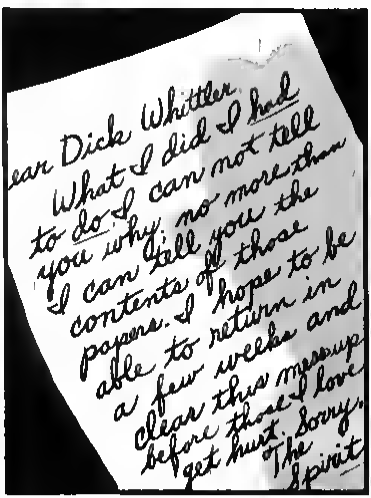
IT'S DATED LAST THURSDAY PROVING YOU WERE IN TOWN THEN!.. IT'S NOT TOO HARD T' FIGURE WHO O'DOLAN'S RELATIVE WAS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT!..NONE OTHER THAN YOUR LIFE-LONG FRIEND COMMISSIONER DOLAN

IN ORDER TO PROTECT COMMISSIONER DOLAN, YOU CAME HERE TO GET WHATEVER O'DOLAN HAD ON HIS RELATIVE! YOU BEAT HIM UP, BUT HURT YOUR ARM IN THE PROCESS! THEN YOU RANSACKED THE ROOM!

YOU DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING THEN...BUT TONIGHT, WHEN I LEFT YOU ALONE IN THE ROOM! YOU FOUND SOMETHING HIDDEN IN THE SINK DRAIN...LET'S HAVE THOSE PAPERS!

SORRY OLD BOY! BUT I'LL HAVE TO END THE CASE RIGHT HERE!

TWO HOURS LATER...
OFFICERS WILL SIGN FOR ALL WEAPONS TAKEN
MESSAGE FOR DICK WHITTLER!


ear Dick Whittler
What I did I had to do. I can not tell you why, no more than I can tell you the contents of those papers. I hope to be able to return in a few weeks and clear this messup before those I love get hurt. Sorry,
The Spirit

GOIN' AFTER HIM, DICK?
YUP!

THE CHASE

TO MEN LIKE WOODY...DINERS ARE A LIVING.... TO THE PILOTS OF THE HIGHWAYS...TO THE TRUCK DRIVERS....DINERS ARE A HARBOR IN THE SEA OF CONCRETE AND LANDSCAPE.....

BUT TO US...
THESE RETIRED WAGONS...THESE GAUDY BOXES.... ARE LITTLE STAGES FOR GIANT DRAMAS....SCENES OF THE BEGINNINGS OR THE ENDS OF EPISODES IN THE COUNTLESS COMEDIES AND TRAGEDIES ON THE LOOM THAT TURNS OUT THE FABRIC OF AMERICAN LIFE....

IN WOODY'S DINER.....THE CURTAIN GOES UP JUST BEFORE DARK...THE TRUCKS BEGIN TO GATHER ABOUT THE SQUAT OLD CAR LIKE FEEDING PIGLETS....AND THE NEON BEGINS TO CALL OUT LIKE A FAT AND COURTING FIREFLY...STOP HERE! STOP HERE! WOODY'S IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

FIRST PUBLISHED JULY 30, 1950
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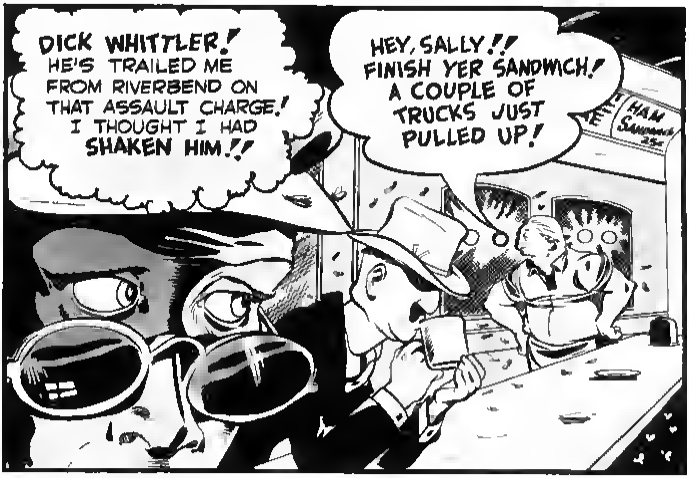
DRAW ONE, SALLY!! WANT ANYTHING ELSE, MISTER? WE GOT DELICIOUS PIE!
EVER SEE THIS GUY?
WE GOT APPLE... CHERRY... BANANA-CREAM...
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME!
WANTED FOR ASSAULT AND BATTERY
THE SPIRIT BY THE RIVERBEND POLICE FORCE
LOTS OF GUYS STOP HERE! HERE'S YER COFFEE!
WHERE'S YOUR WASHROOM? I WANT TO CLEAN UP!
SLAP!
SECOND DOOR ON THE RIGHT! ...HEY, SALLY.. TURN ON THE RADIO.. SEE IF YA C'N GET THE BAWL GAME!!
SPECIAL BOILED BEEF 50
CREAK!
SLAM
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, PAL?
COFFEE!
...AND NOW FOR THE LOCAL NEWS... STATE POLICE ARE STILL ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A DANGEROUS HOMICIDAL MANIAC WHO ESCAPED FROM THE FAIRVIEW ASYLUM LAST WEEK. POLICE FEAR HE MAY BE OUT OF THE STATE BY NOW
LET 45¢
BOILED BEEF 50
WHAT'S THE MATTER, WOODY? ARE YOU TOUCHY ABOUT ESCAPED MANIACS?
SLAM!
CLICK!
M-MY NAME AIN'T WOODY! WOODY IS WHO THEY'RE LOOKING FOR...HE...HE'S MY BROTHER! I HAD HIM PUT AWAY!
HERE'S YER DRAW, ED!
WASH ROOM

THE DINER HAS FEW CUSTOMERS NOW...TRUCKS RUMBLE BY IN THE NIGHT...
FLY

@-!*!!
☆@%--!
*@-!

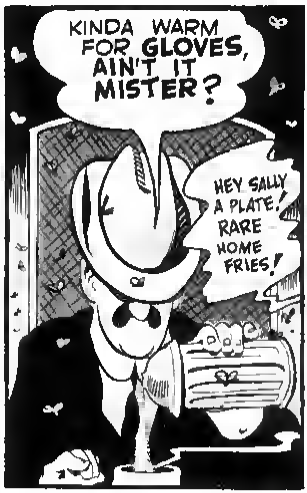
HOW ABOUT A NICE SLICE OF PIE, MISTER? WE GOT APPLE... CHERRY... BANANA-CREAM... LEMON

WELL?
NO... NO PIE!


DICK WHITTLER! HE'S TRAILED ME FROM RIVERBEND ON THAT ASSAULT CHARGE! I THOUGHT I HAD SHAKEN HIM!!
HEY, SALLY!! FINISH YER SANDWICH! A COUPLE OF TRUCKS JUST PULLED UP!
HAM SANDWICH 25¢

HIYA SALLY! HOWSA BOY ED?
HA HA HA HA SAME OL' SALLY... CUTE AS EVER!

PASS THE SUGAR, PLEASE!
SOUP 15¢
GIMME A CHOPPED STEAK... RARE... HOME FRIES PIE AN' COFFEE!
THE SAME!


KINDA WARM FOR GLOVES, AIN'T IT MISTER?
HEY SALLY! A PLATE! RARE HOME FRIES!

CRASH!!!

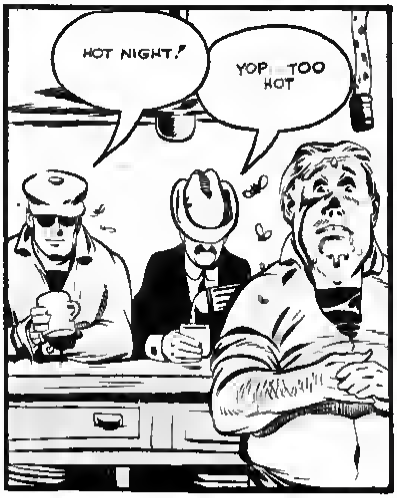
W-WHAT DID YOU SAY?? SAY THAT AGAIN!!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, ED? ALL I SAID WAS I SEEN YER BROTHER, WOODY, ON THE ROAD AN HOUR AGO. AND I GIVE HIM A LIFT OUT HERE!

WOODY HERE??
YEAH! I LET 'IM OUT ABOUT A HALF MILE DOWN...? ..SAY WHAT'S GOIN' ON ?? DON'T WOODY OWN THIS PLACE ANYMORE?

S. SA.. SALLY, CALL THE COPS!
THE LINE IS DEAD!

DEAD!!??
WOODY MUST'VE CUT IT! HE'S OUTSIDE SOMEWHERE!
UH HUH... HOW MUCH IS THE CHECK, ED?

DON'T YOU GUYS UNDERSTAND? WOODY'S NUTS ....HE WANTS TO KILL ME!! Y'CAN'T LEAVE MEEEEE
ACME


HOT NIGHT!
YOP... TOO HOT

LISSEN, MISTER! Y' GOT A CAR, AIN'T YA? DRIVE ME INTO TOWN! I CAN'T STAY HERE AN' BE...
NO CAR, PAL! I'M A HITCH HIKER!
I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT LET'S GO!
YOU CAN COME ALONG IF YOU WANT, MISTER!
NO. NO THANKS!
YOU FORGOT TO PAY FOR YOUR COFFEE, SPIRIT!
I WAS CRAZY TO THINK YOU MIGHT LET ME GET AWAY, DICK!
YOP.. NOW IF YOU AND ED HOP INTO MY OLD JALOPY..
BANG
GET...AWAY FROM... THE.. DOOR... AND.. SIT DOWN..
OOHH!
WOODY. YOU...SHOT ME...
W WOODY!
CHEAP PIES. .GREASE ON THE COUNTER... YOU. AIN'T... BEEN. KEEPIN'.. THE...PLACE.. NEAT...EDDIE!

I BEEN WAITIN' BACK THERE AN HOUR FOR YOU GUYS TO GO... BUT I COULDN'T LET YOU LEAVE WITH EDDIE!

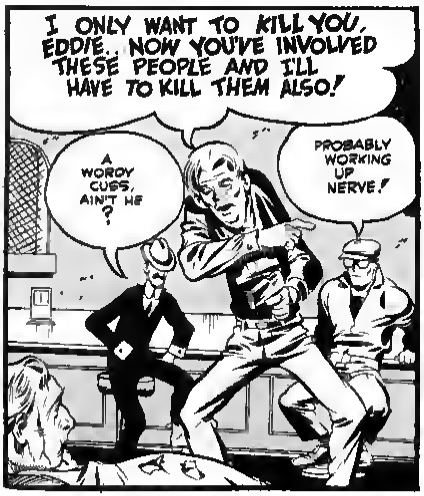
EDDIE HAD ME PUT AWAY.. TOLD THEM I WAS A MANIAC! DIDN'T YOU TELL THEM I WAS A MANIAC, EDDIE?
WOODY.. DON'T SHOOT AGAIN WOODY I'M YOUR BROTHER!

DICK...
YEAH?

WANT TO MAKE A DEAL?
WHAT KIND?

I'LL NAIL THIS GUY IF YOU LET ME GET AWAY! I JUST NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME TO PROVE I WAS INNOCENT...

WELL..?


I ONLY WANT TO KILL YOU, EDDIE.. NOW YOU'VE INVOLVED THESE PEOPLE AND I'LL HAVE TO KILL THEM ALSO!
A WORDY CUSS, AIN'T HE?
PROBABLY WORKING UP NERVE!

HOW ABOUT THAT DEAL, DICK?
CLICK

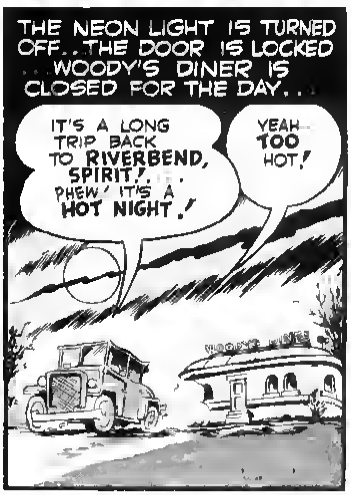
YAWN
OH WELL

BANG!!
BANG
BANG!!
BANG

I DIDN'T THINK I'D HAVE T'MAKE A DEAL WITH YA!
YOU WIN THIS HAND, WHITTLER! SLIP THE CUFFS ON HIM... I'M GOING ALONG WITH YOU, WHITTLER!

LET'S GO ED, YOU'LL HAVE T'GET YOUR WOUNDS TREATED!
YEAH..YEAH.. HOW ABOUT SOME PIE BEFORE YA GO... ON THE HOUSE!

WE GOT APPLE CHERRY BANANA-CREAM..
C'MON..


THE NEON LIGHT IS TURNED OFF..THE DOOR IS LOCKED ...WOODY'S DINER IS CLOSED FOR THE DAY...
IT'S A LONG TRIP BACK TO RIVERBEND, SPIRIT! PHEW! IT'S A HOT NIGHT!
YEAH TOO HOT!

INVESTIGATION

By Will Eisner

FIRST PUBLISHED AUGUST 5, 1950
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DRUGS

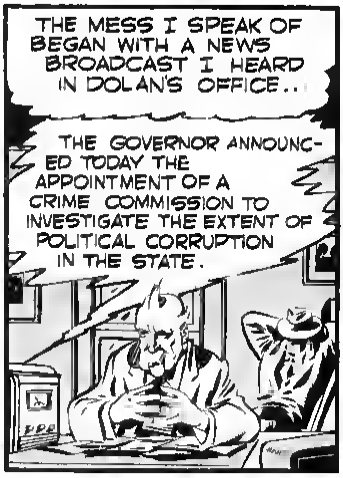
NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD YOUR WORKOUT SPIRIT, I HOPE YOU'RE READY TO COME BACK TO HEADQUARTERS AND TALK!

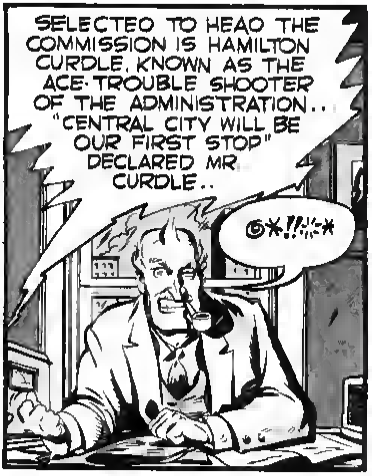
LATER.
HERE IT IS THREE WEEKS GONE BY... AIN'T YOU TIRED OF PLAYIN' CAT AND MOUSE YET ?

ON TUESDAY, JULY 19, YOU ASSAULTED MICHAEL O'DOLAN AND RANSACKED HIS ROOM FOR SOME PAPERS THAT YOU LATER FOUND! . WHY? I WANT TO KNOW WHY??

OKAY DICK... I'LL TELL YOU!

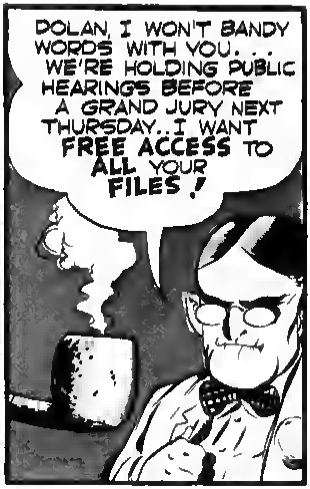
I...I WANTED TO HOLD OFF MY EXPLANATION TILL THE MESS IN CENTRAL CITY BLEW OVER! IN A WAY THAT'S WHAT CAUSED ALL THIS!

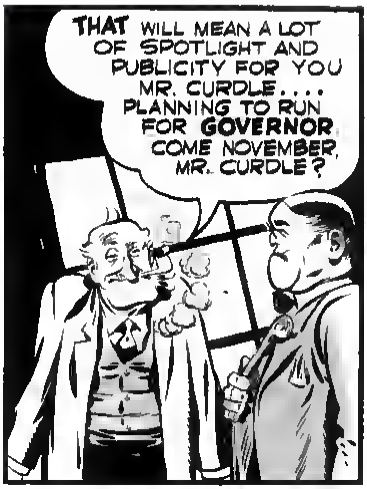

THE MESS I SPEAK OF BEGAN WITH A NEWS BROADCAST I HEARD IN DOLAN'S OFFICE...
THE GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED TODAY THE APPOINTMENT OF A CRIME COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE EXTENT OF POLITICAL CORRUPTION IN THE STATE.


SELECTED TO HEAD THE COMMISSION IS HAMILTON CURDLE, KNOWN AS THE ACE-TROUBLE SHOOTER OF THE ADMINISTRATION.. "CENTRAL CITY WILL BE OUR FIRST STOP" DECLARED MR. CURDLE..
@*!!:*

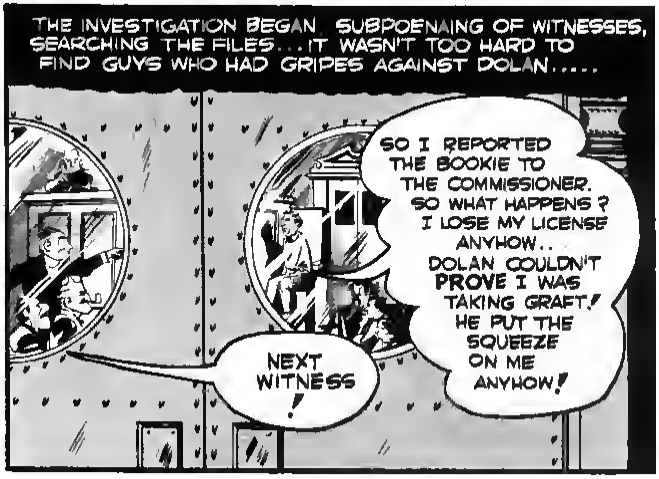
THAT GUY CURDLE HAS BEEN AFTER MY HIDE FOR FIFTEEN YEARS...IF...HE...THINKS...
BZZZ
Z
Z
Z
Z

YEAH?
MR. HAMILTON CURDLE OF THE CRIME COMMISSION IS OUTSIDE, SIR!

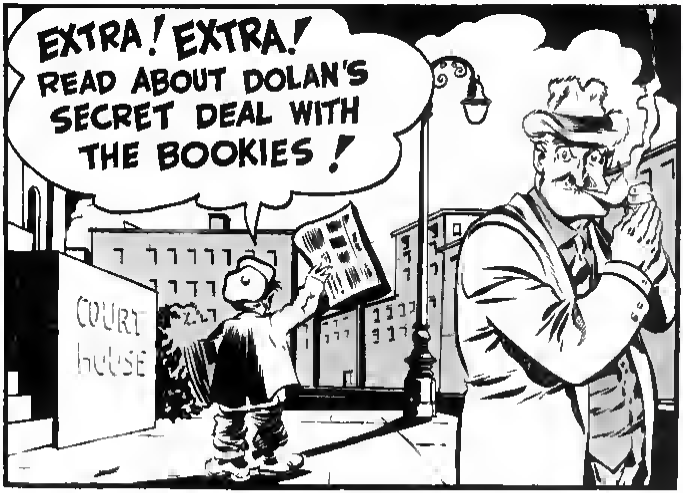

DOLAN, I WON'T BANDY WORDS WITH YOU... WE'RE HOLDING PUBLIC HEARINGS BEFORE A GRAND JURY NEXT THURSDAY..I WANT FREE ACCESS TO ALL YOUR FILES!

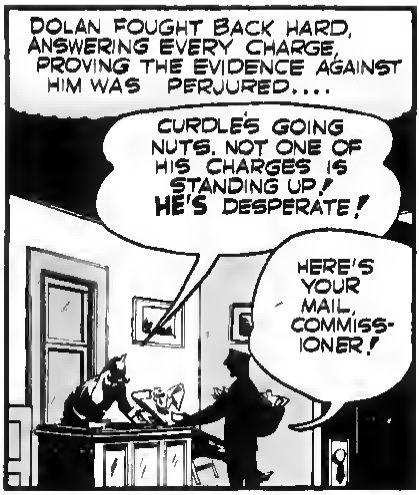

THAT WILL MEAN A LOT OF SPOTLIGHT AND PUBLICITY FOR YOU MR. CURDLE.... PLANNING TO RUN FOR GOVERNOR COME NOVEMBER, MR. CURDLE?

THAT KIND OF ANSWER I EXPECTED FROM YOU, SIR....SHALL WE GO, GENTLEMEN?


THE INVESTIGATION BEGAN. SUBPOENAING OF WITNESSES, SEARCHING THE FILES...IT WASN'T TOO HARD TO FIND GUYS WHO HAD GRIPES AGAINST DOLAN.....
SO I REPORTED THE BOOKIE TO THE COMMISSIONER. SO WHAT HAPPENS? I LOSE MY LICENSE ANYHOW.. DOLAN COULDN'T PROVE I WAS TAKING GRAFT! HE PUT THE SQUEEZE ON ME ANYHOW!
NEXT WITNESS!

DOLAN...YEAH, I THINK HE ACCEPTED GRAFT...
...BUT..DO YOU KNOW
NAH, I DON'T KNOW, BUT HE'S IN A GOOD POSITION TO! AIN'T HE?


EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ABOUT DOLAN'S SECRET DEAL WITH THE BOOKIES!
COURT house


DOLAN FOUGHT BACK HARD, ANSWERING EVERY CHARGE, PROVING THE EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM WAS PERJURED....
CURDLE'S GOING NUTS. NOT ONE OF HIS CHARGES IS STANDING UP! HE'S DESPERATE!
HERE'S YOUR MAIL, COMMISSIONER!

THE PUBLIC'S GETTING A LITTLE FED UP WITH ALL THIS SENSATIONAL HOGWASH! HE'LL HAVE TO DIG UP SOMETHING CONCRETE OR GET OUT OF TOWN!

YEP, IT LOOKS LIKE CURDLE IS.... ?

DOLAN? WHAT IS IT?

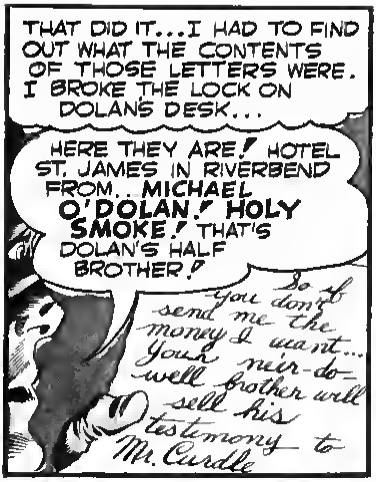
SLAM

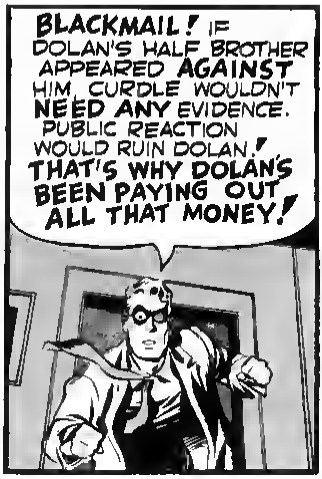
I PICKED UP THE TORN OFF CORNER OF THE ENVELOPE. IT WAS THE ONLY PART OF THE LETTER HE HAD LEFT BEHIND...
RIVERBEND
U.S.A.

I WAITED IN DOLAN'S OFFICE ALL AFTERNOON. HE DIDN'T RETURN. THEN AT FIVE O'CLOCK THERE WAS A PHONE CALL....
SPIRIT, IS DADDY THERE?
NO, ELLEN, WHY?
RING
RING
RING

HIS BANK JUST CALLED UP. HE'S JUST WITHDRAWN ALL HIS SAVINGS!... SPIRIT, I'M AFRAID.
SO AM I, ELLEN, SO AM I...

DOLAN CAME BACK LATE THAT NIGHT, HIS FACE, WHITE AND HAGGARD. HE GOT TWO MORE OF THOSE LETTERS DURING THE NEXT WEEK...


THAT DID IT...I HAD TO FIND OUT WHAT THE CONTENTS OF THOSE LETTERS WERE. I BROKE THE LOCK ON DOLAN'S DESK...
HERE THEY ARE! HOTEL ST. JAMES IN RIVERBEND FROM.. MICHAEL O'DOLAN! HOLY SMOKE! THAT'S DOLAN'S HALF BROTHER!
So if you don't send me the money I want... your no-well brother will sell his testimony to Mr. Curdle


BLACKMAIL! IF DOLAN'S HALF BROTHER APPEARED AGAINST HIM, CURDLE WOULDN'T NEED ANY EVIDENCE. PUBLIC REACTION WOULD RUIN DOLAN! THAT'S WHY DOLAN'S BEEN PAYING OUT ALL THAT MONEY!

CEN

...WELL FROM THERE ON IT WENT FAST... I GOT INTO RIVERBEND AT 2:00 A.M.
I REACHED O'DOLAN'S ROOM AT 2:30 A.M.. AND FOUND THAT DOLAN HAD GOTTEN THERE FIRST...

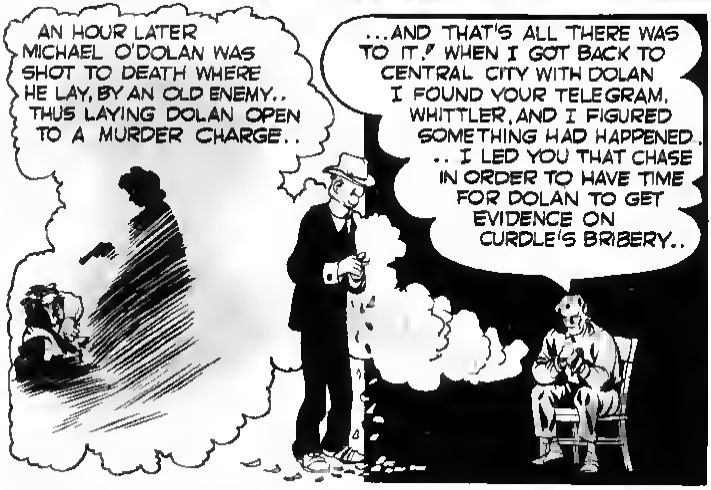
I JOINED THE STRUGGLE..

CRASH

HA HA HA! I'M GONNA TESTIFY SEE! CURDLES PAID ME ANYHOW... NOW BEAT IT BOTH OF YOU!

THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW, MICHAEL O DOLAN!

YOU OLD HOTHEAD WITH THOSE BLACKMAIL LETTERS HIS TESTIMONY IN COURT WOULD HAVE BEEN SCRATCHED OFF THE BOOKS ANYHOW... THERE WAS NO NEED FOR YOU TO COME HERE!


AN HOUR LATER MICHAEL O'DOLAN WAS SHOT TO DEATH WHERE HE LAY, BY AN OLD ENEMY.. THUS LAYING DOLAN OPEN TO A MURDER CHARGE..
...AND THAT'S ALL THERE WAS TO IT! WHEN I GOT BACK TO CENTRAL CITY WITH DOLAN I FOUND YOUR TELEGRAM, WHITTLER, AND I FIGURED SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED... I LED YOU THAT CHASE IN ORDER TO HAVE TIME FOR DOLAN TO GET EVIDENCE ON CURDLE'S BRIBERY..

BUT I GUESS IT'S TOO LATE NOW.. YOU CAN NOW PRESS CHARGES AGAINST ME..
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, SPIRIT!

COME IN, SIR... HE'S CORROBORATED YOUR STORY..
DOLAN!

YOU OLD GOAT!
YOU HOTHEADED YOUNG FOOL! LET'S GO HOME!

SUN., MAR. 5, 1950 (ADVERTISEMENT)

SPIRIT

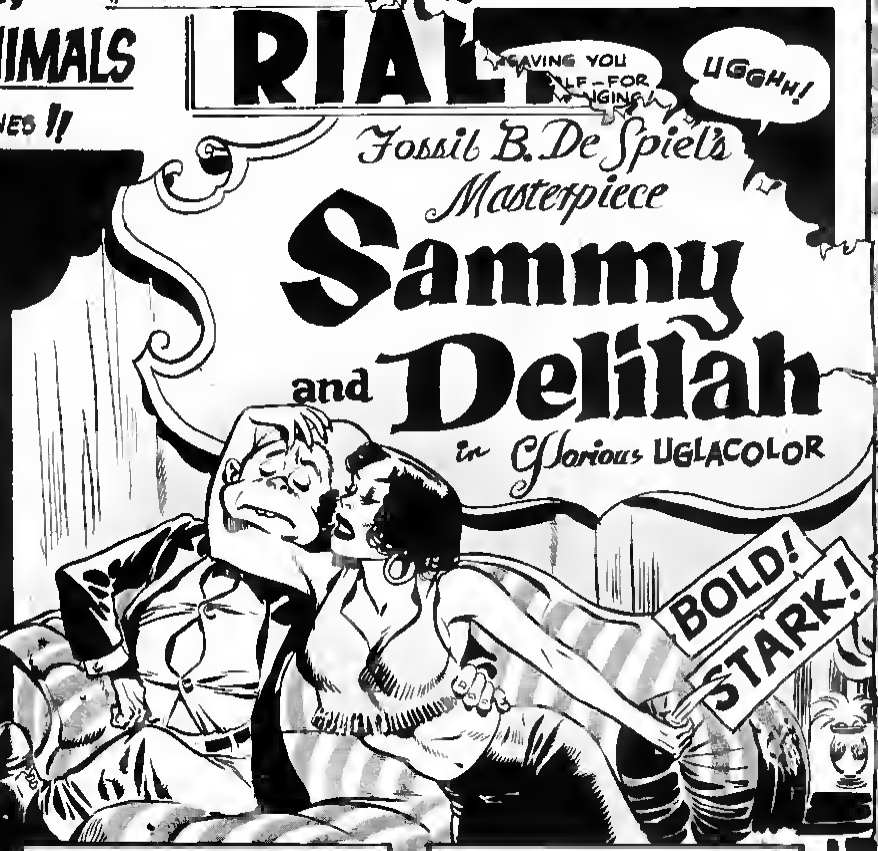
By Will Eisner

ACTION Mystery ADVENTURE

CAST OF 20,000 PEOPLE, 50,000 ANIMALS

DON'T MISS THESE UNFORGETTABLE SCENES !!

NOW RIAL



Fossil B. De Spiel's Masterpiece

Sammy and Delilah

in Glorious UGLACOLOR

BOLD! STARK!

SEE

SEE

SEE

FROM THE MAN WHO GAVE YOU..
"KISS OF CLEOPATRA"
"SIN OF SALAMI"
"DAUGHTER OF HELEN OF TROY'S SECOND COUSIN"
"REAP THE WILD OATS"

Torn With Turbulent Tension
..Evening Express
Pelpitating With Puerile Passion
..Daily News
Rife With Raw Repartee
Review
Simmering With Subtlety
Journal

12TH WEEK!

FIRST PUBLISHED MARCH 5, 1950
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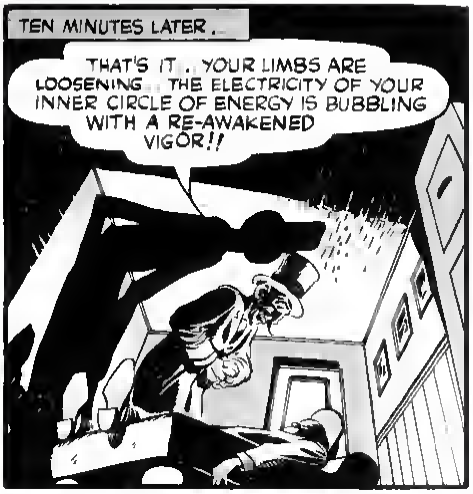
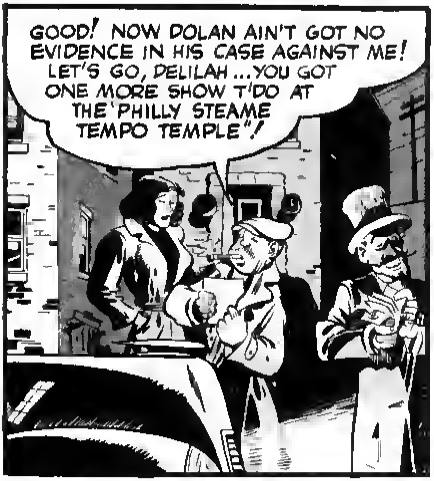
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
WORK! WORK! WORK! IS THERE NO END TO PAPER WORK? NOT A THING HAS HAPPENED 'ROUND HERE SINCE THE SPIRIT TOOK OFF FOR THE ORIENT!
SIGH- I WOULD LIKE T'GO TO THE FIGHTS T'NITE... LION McROAR'S AT THE ARENA! BUT WHO CAN I STICK THIS PAPER WORK ON?
HI YA, DOLAN! GOT ANY CASES YA WANT SOLVED?
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
PAPER WORK!! ALL I DO IS PAPER WORK!! WISH THE SPIRIT WOULD GET BACK!
AHEM
WHO..?
SYKO T. SOMATIC, EMINENT PSYCHIATRIST, PSYCHOANALYST, PSYCHOLOGIST AND LECTURER ON INTERPLANETARY WARFARE!
BUT..?
I CAN CLEARLY SEE THAT YOU, SIR, ARE THE VICTIM OF PSYCHO-NEUROTIC IMPULSES PROVOKED BY A DEEPLY ROOTED INFERIORITY COMPLEX!
HOW..?
TUT TUT NO RATIONALIZATION, PLEASE...YOU WISH TO BE STRONG, MANLY, POWERFUL...BUT YOUR INNER CONFLICTS AND YOUR SELF REPRESSION HAVE CREATED A SHELL OF INFERIORITY WITHIN YOU! I CAN TRANSFORM YOU INTO WHAT YOU WISH TO BE!... NOW RELAX... RELAX!


TEN MINUTES LATER...
THAT'S IT.. YOUR LIMBS ARE LOOSENING... THE ELECTRICITY OF YOUR INNER CIRCLE OF ENERGY IS BUBBLING WITH A RE-AWAKENED VIGOR!!

DO YOU FEEL THE DYNAMIC IMPULSES OF YOUR HIDDEN STRENGTH? YOU ARE STRONG... YOU ARE DYNAMIC... YOU ARE ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO BE!

GOT EM, PERFESSOR?
GOT 'EM


GOOD! NOW DOLAN AIN'T GOT NO EVIDENCE IN HIS CASE AGAINST ME! LET'S GO, DELILAH ...YOU GOT ONE MORE SHOW T'DO AT THE 'PHILLY STEAME TEMPO TEMPLE"!

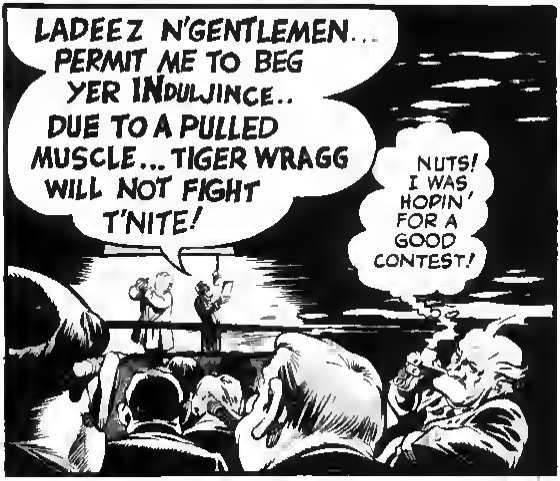
I AM STRONG ...I AM DYNAMIC... I AM ALL I EVER WANTED TO BE!
PHILLY, DON'T LOOK NOW...BUT WE GOT COMPANY!
I'LL SOON FIX DAT!!

BONK

PHILLY STEAME STOLE PAPERS FROM DOLAN'S OFFICE. MUST STOP HIM!
WHAT DO I ALWEEZ DO WIT' GUYS THAT KNOW TOO MUCH! I FEED 'EM TO THE LION— HAW! HAW!
HE KNOWS, PHILLY! WHAT'LL YOU DO?

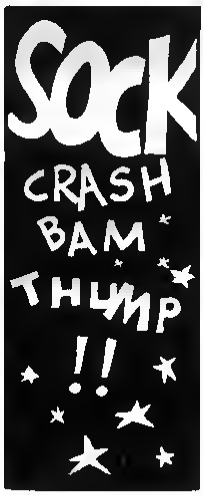
ARENA
TONITE "LION" McROAR —AND— "TIGER" WRAGG
DOES McROAR KNOW HE AIN'T FIGHTIN' WRAGG?
YEAH! I CALLED UP FROM THE GAS STATION! LION IS USED TO GETTIN' RID O'MY ENEMIES THIS WAY.

HEH.. HEH IN THE RING KILLING A GUY IS JUST AN ACCIDENT!
AND LION HAS HAD TWENTY "ACCIDENTS." BRRRR
READY
READY LION?


LADEEZ N'GENTLEMEN... PERMIT ME TO BEG YER INDULJINCE.. DUE TO A PULLED MUSCLE... TIGER WRAGG WILL NOT FIGHT T'NITE!
NUTS! I WAS HOPIN' FOR A GOOD CONTEST!

INSTEAD, FACIN' LION McROAR WILL BE SLUGGIN' SAMMY WEIGHIN' ONE HUNNERT N'THIRTEEN POUNDS! HMMM
SAMMY?

BONG


SOCK
CRASH
BAM
THUMP
!!

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10...
THE WINNAH IN ONE MINUTE AND FOUR SECONDS OF TH' FOIST ROUND

SLUGGIN' SAMMY!!
...I AM STRONG... I AM DYNAMIC...

AND IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS...
SLUGGIN' SAMMY SENDS LION TO HOSPITAL
McROAR: I'LL NEVER FIGHT AGAIN!
ARENA OFFERS SAMMY $1,000,000 CONTRACT
SAMMY REFUTES FIGHTING CAREER.. WILL FIGHT CRIME.. HE SAYS
"I WILL CRUSH THEM WITH MY BARE HANDS". VOWED SAMMY.. "I WILL SHOW THEM NO MERCY.. I SHALL WIPE CRIME OUT!
GULP!
SIGH
BRRR!
WE'RE GIVIN' UP!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS! EVERY CROOK IN TOWN IS SURRENDERING! WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO RENT OUT JAIL SPACE IN THE NEXT TOWN!
THIS IS AWFUL, DELILAH, MY WHOLE CRIME MACHINE IS GIVIN' UP! I ALMOST FEEL LIKE GOIN' T'JAIL! WHAT'LL I DO?
JUST LEAVE IT ALL TO LITTLE DELILAH PHILLY!!
QUIT SHOVIN'!
I'M NEXT!
I AM STRONG I AM DYNAMIC I AM ALL I EVER WANTED TO BE!
AHEM!
I AM STRONG... I AM DYNAMIC... I AM.. I AM... -NOW WHAT WAS THAT LAST LINE...?!
SNIFF
I ALWAYS WANTED T'MEET A MAN LIKE YOU.
ALL OF A SUDDEN I GOT A HUNCH THINGS'LL BE IMPROVING PRET-TY SOON!

BLIP!
AND NOW... WHY NOT TELL ME WHERE DOLAN KEEPS THE FILES ON NIGHT CLUB PUBLIC SAFETY VIOLATIONS?

I CAN'T BLIP DO THAT
GOTTA GO I GOTTA
THANKS FOR THE CAKE..

J-U-S-T..A MOMENT
ER
LEMON MERINGUE PIE?
JUST A TEENIE PIECE

NO..NO..

NO..NO..

AND SO..

..HE KEEPS.. THEM IN A FILE MARKED "LUNCH".. ..NOW, C'MON. GIMME.. THAT SODA..

OK...PHILLY, WE GOT IT.. YOU HEARD HIM SPILL IT...
RIGHT.. GOOD WORK, DELILAH.. GET DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS AN' SWIPE 'EM I'LL TAKE DIS PUNK DOWN TO THE CLUB..
YA RAT.. YA BETRAYED ME BUFF BAW!

A FEW MINUTES LATER..
AH HERE THEY ARE LIKE THE KID SAID..

IT WAS A CINCH NOT A SOUL AROUND
CLICK

DAYS LATER... SOMEWHERE IN THE FAR EAST...

a day at the Zoo !!

FIRST PUBLISHED APRIL 23, 1950
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We came to the zoo about eleven o'clock. It was nice. I liked the zoo.

THIS IS AN AFRICAN LION. THE LION IS THE KING OF BEASTS AND IS THE LARGEST MEMBER OF THE CAT FAMILY. HE CAN'T CLIMB TREES LIKE MOST CATS! COME AWAY FROM THE CAGE MILTON!

THIS, IS A NEWLY IMPORTED LION.. HE IS STILL FEROCIOUS. MILTON.. DON'T GO NEAR THE LION... AREN'T WE GLAD THAT WE ARE NOT LIONS!.. NEXT WE SEE THE FEATHERED PEACOCK!

C'MON MILTY!

WAIT AWREADY... HE'S GONNA FEED IT!

KILLERS AC

What I liked the most of all was the lion.

LOOKIT... HE SHOVES THE MEAT IN THE CAGE WITH THAT BIG STICK!

C'MON, C'MON! MRS. KARNS WILL BE MAD ON US!

HEY!.. HE LEFT THE STICK! I'M GONNA SHOW THAT OLD LION A THING OR TWO!

C'MON, I'M GOING!

GRAOR!

DON'T MILTY! ...HE'S MAD! GIVE HIM BACK HIS MEAT!

I liked to play with the lion. He was jumping up and down. He was very funny.

HA HA! HA HA!

I'M GONNA CATCH UP TO THE CLASS.. CAHMAAN MILTEEE...

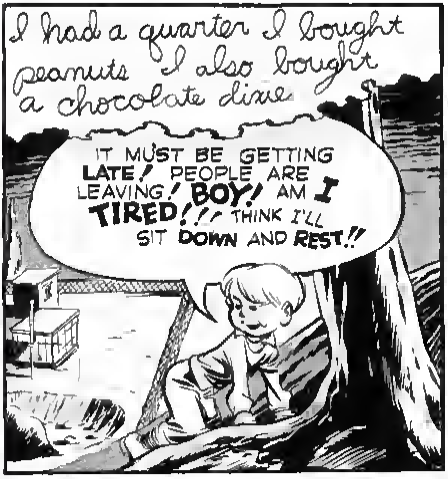
The zoo was a lot of fun. I learned all about the lion.

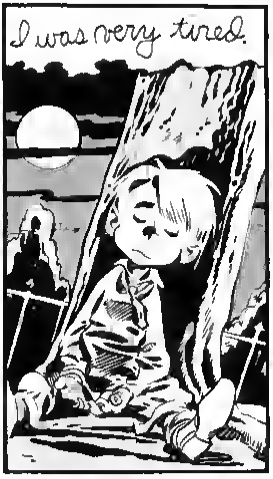
HE'S ONLY IN THE CAGE DURING THE DAY! BUT AT NIGHT WE PUT HIM ON THAT ISLAND! SEE, THERE'S A THIRTY FOOT PIT ALL AROUND IT!

GEE!

YA PUT THE LION ON THIS ISLAND!! GOSH! WON'T HE JUMP OFF?
HE'S TRIED IT SON! BUT THE DISTANCE IS A WEE BIT TOO GREAT!.. HE'S AN ORNERY ONE EVER SINCE HIS MATE DIED!.. YOU'D BETTER STAY AWAY FROM HIM! I HEAR HE EATS LITTLE BOYS!! :CHUCKLE:
KRRR

I was getting tired of the lion I wanted to find the class But I couldn't.
MRS. KARNS!
MRS. KARNS !!


I had a quarter I bought peanuts I also bought a chocolate dixie
IT MUST BE GETTING LATE! PEOPLE ARE LEAVING! BOY! AM I TIRED!!! THINK I'LL SIT DOWN AND REST!!


I was very tired.

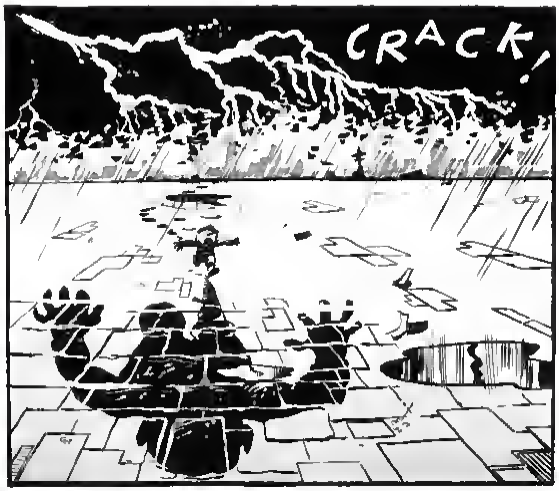
Z
Z
Z

CRACK

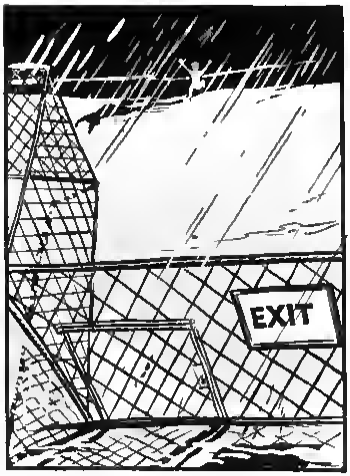
MRS. KARNS! MRS. KARNS!!
I WANNA GO HOME ...
BAW.
MRS. KARNS!!

MRS. KARNS!
MRS. KARNS!
NOBODY'S HERE!?!, I'M ALL ALONE!?!
MAMA!
MAMA....I'M SCARED...
I didn't want to cry but I couldn't help it. Then I saw where I was.
THE LION'S CAGE.. BUT THE LION'S GONE!
Then I remembered The lion was out in the rain like me He was out in the pit
TEE HEE
THIS AIN'T A BAD OLD ZOO!..TUM TE TUM.. I'LL JUST SIT HERE IN MR. LION'S OLD CAGE! MMM....IT'S DRY HERE!
I was hungry. I didn't eat my lunch yet. I had a chopped liver and bacon sandwich I also had a tomato.
The rain began to die down. I began to feel good. I looked at the lion's pit
CRACK!
!

MA!


CRACK!

I am a fast runner I am the second fastest runner in P.S. 77


EXIT

LOCKED!

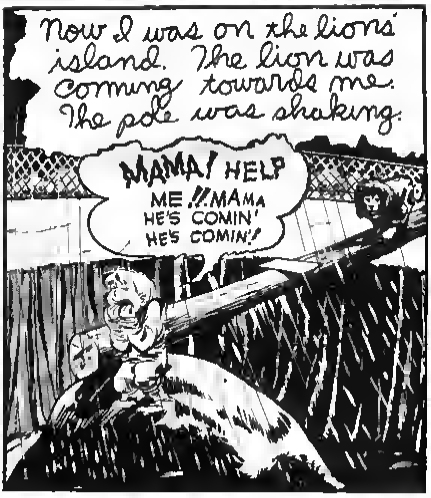
The fence was too slippery to climb I tore my pants. Then I saw a car passing by.
LET ME OUT!..LET ME OUT!!! A LION IS AFTER ME! HELP!!

IS THAT A VOICE SHOUTING FOR HELP?
NONSENSE! SPIRIT... THAT'S THE ZOO!
POLICE

THEY DROVE AWAY! I'M ALL ALONE. MY HOUSE IS ONLY A BLOCK AWAY! I CAN SEE MY WINDOW! I CN SEE IT FROM HERE! MAMA! MAMA!! LOOK OUT THE WINDOW! PLEASE LOOK OUT THE

I ran till I couldn't run no more I run passed the animal cages. They was all awake making noises.
GASP
PUFF PUFF
GASP

LION PIT


Now I was on the lions' island. The lion was coming towards me. The pole was shaking.
MAMA! HELP ME!! MAMA HE'S COMIN' HE'S COMIN'!

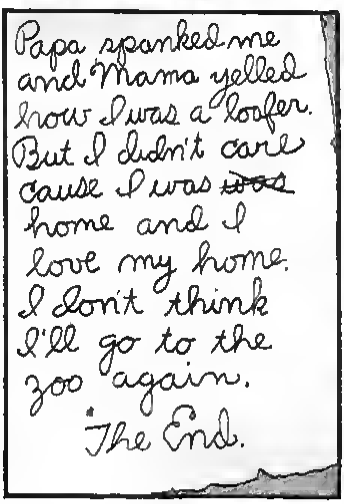
A-R-R-R-H

I'M SAFE... I'M SAFE... I CAUGHT THE LION!

I crawled back over the pit. Then I found a hole in the zoo fence I went home.

SOAKED! SOAKED TO THE SKIN!
LOOK AT THOSE PANTS! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH THIS BOY!

YOU DON'T CARE HOW MUCH YOUR MOTHER WORRIES!.. YOU DON'T CARE HOW FRANTIC WE WERE!!.. WHAT WERE YOU DOING ALL THIS TIME?
I CAUGHT A LION... PAPA!


Papa spanked me and Mama yelled how I was a loafer. But I didn't care cause I was ~~was~~ home and I love my home. I don't think I'll go to the zoo again.
The End.

SPIRIT BACK ISSUES

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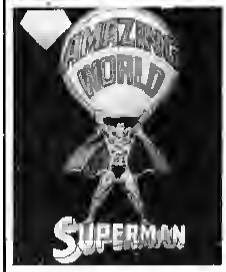

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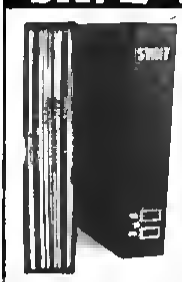
SAVE YOUR SPIRIT



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This SPIRIT LIBRARY CASE features a Navy Blue spine and black leatherette body. #2682 SPIRIT LIBRARY CASE $4.95

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Teacher's Pet!

FIRST PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 10, 1950
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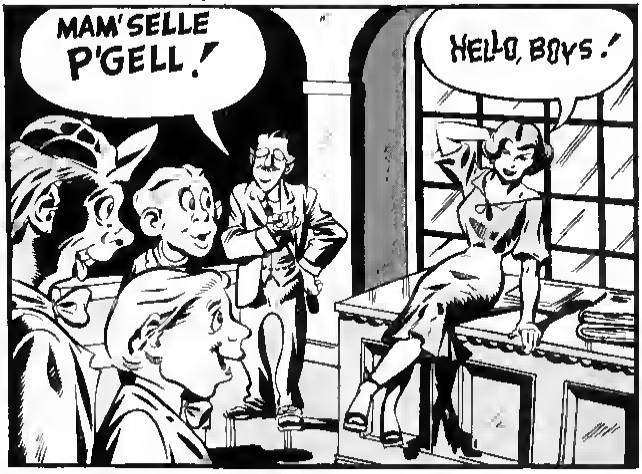
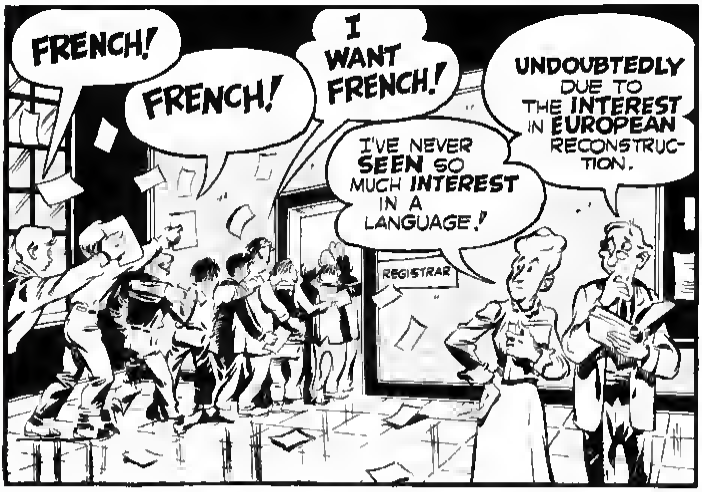
Ah yes, vacation is o'er and the leaves turn brown and drop to earth, and the air is cool and the young flock back to school... This is true in the city and small town as well...





WHY I WOULDN'T GET IN THIS DEAL IF IT INVOLVED ACYD'S METAL ALLOY TEST ITSELF! THAT'S HOW UN-INTERESTED I AM IN BEING WITHIN A MILE OF P'GELL, SO LONG!

AHH... JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY... WHAT DOES THIS CASE INVOLVE??

ACYD'S METAL ALLOY TEST!

AND SO...
@*#%:!!*@
PHYSIC
BD
LOCKER

P'GELL HASN'T SEEN ME IN TWO YEARS, THIS GET-UP SHOULD GET PAST HER!
.. THE SUBJUNCTIVE IS REPLACED BY THE INFINITIVE WHEN THE SUBJECT OF THE MAIN AND SUBORDINATE VERB IS THE SAME...

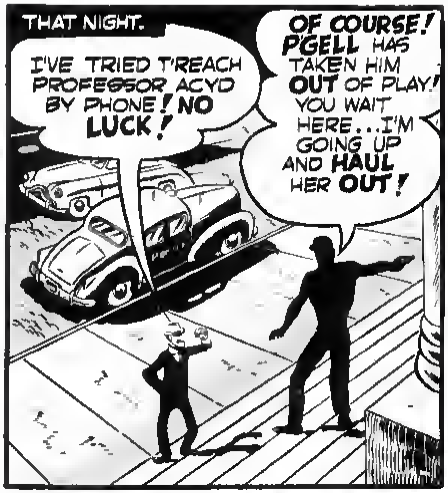
AS SOON AS SHE LEAVES CLASS, I'LL TAIL HER!
Je désire acheter des chaussures BUT....
Je désire que vous achetiez des chaussures-

THE SOONER I CLOSE THIS CASE THE HAPPIER I'LL BE!
CLASS DISMISSED!

OH, BEFORE YOU GO, CLASS, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE A NEW STUDENT MUCH TOO MODEST TO REVEAL HIS IDENTITY...THE SPIRIT!

OOH!
FEEL HIS BICEPS LOUISE! FEE-YUL!
LOOKIT HIS MASK... IT'S TORQUOISE BLUE!
IT IS NOT! IT'S FRENCH ULTRAMARINE!
BBH!

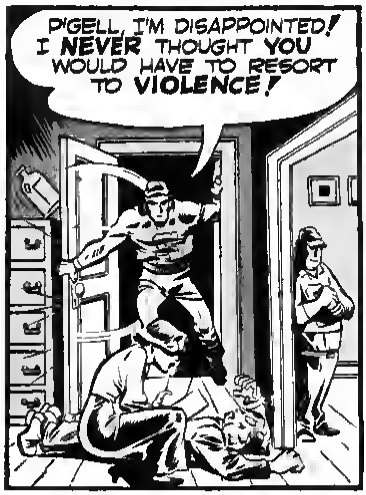
LATER...
MAM'SELLE P'GELL!
AH, YOU ARE THE FAMED PROFESSOR ACYD, AREN'T YOU? I AM DELIGHTED THAT YOU KNOW MY NAME!
I... I HAD TO INQUIRE ABOUT YOU AS SOON AS I SAW YOU ENTER SCHOOL. HEH HEH!
I'M JUST MAD ABOUT YOU CLEAR, COOL SCIENTISTS! I'VE READ SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR NEW FORMULA...THE "ACYD TEST"
YOU HAVE?
IT MUST BE WONDERFUL TO HAVE CORPORATIONS OFFER YOU FIVE MILLION DOLLARS FOR YOUR WORK!
ON THE.. ER... ER. CONTRARY.. I WON'T SELL THE FORMULA FOR COMMERCIAL USE, I'M GOING TO CONTINUE TO WORK ON... IT... IN.. SECRECY!
YOU... YOU WOULDN'T LET ME WATCH, WOULD YOU?
YOU?.. WELL IT CAN'T HURT.. HEH HEH. ...MEET ME HERE AT NINE TONIGHT, MY DEAR! I'LL SHOW YOU THE WHOLE EXPERIMENT! IT'S QUITE A SIMPLE FORMULA, YOU KNOW.
PHEW!
HELLO, WHITTLER! P'GELL HAS TIPPED HER HAND! SHE'S AFTER THE "ACYD FORMULA"! THAT'S THE NEW METAL ALLOY TEST! MEET ME HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY AT NINE-FIFTEEN! OH, YES.. ONE MORE THING.. I HOPE YOU CHOKE!!

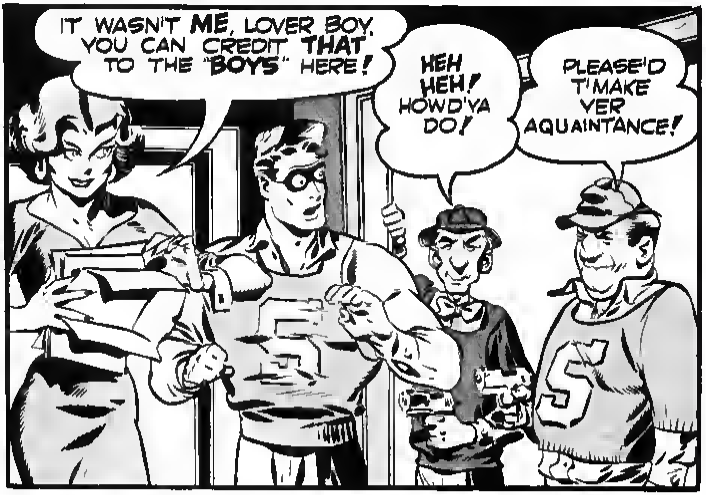

THAT NIGHT.
I'VE TRIED T'REACH PROFESSOR ACYD BY PHONE! NO LUCK!
OF COURSE! P'GELL HAS TAKEN HIM OUT OF PLAY! YOU WAIT HERE...I'M GOING UP AND HAUL HER OUT!

OOOH!
THE SPIRIT!!
ISN'T HE DREAMY!
A LIVING DOLL! SIGH!

PHYSICS LAB.

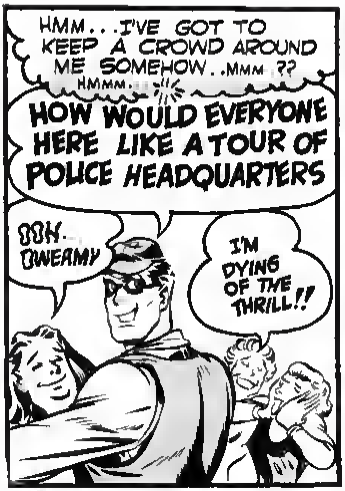
PHYSICS LAB.


P'GELL, I'M DISAPPOINTED! I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WOULD HAVE TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE!


IT WASN'T ME, LOVER BOY. YOU CAN CREDIT THAT TO THE "BOYS" HERE!
HEH HEH! HOW'D'YA DO!
PLEASE'D T'MAKE YER AQUAINTANCE!

LOOKS LIKE YOU LOSE AGAIN, SPIRIT! DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED OF BEING OUTWITTED BY ME SWEETHEART?
OWCH!!
MY PAPERS .. YOU TOOK 'EM!
YUP!
OOF
THE SPIRIT'S GOT THE FORMULA! GET HIM YOU LOUTS!
OOOH!
LOOK.. THE SPIRIT HAS COME TO OUR DANCE!!

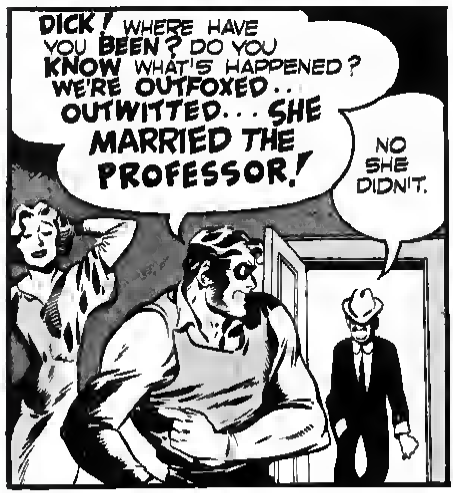
THEY WON'T PULL ANYTHING WITH THIS CROWD AROUND, BUT AS SOON AS THE DANCE IS OVER...???

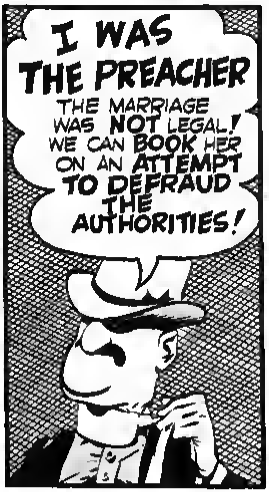

HMM...I'VE GOT TO KEEP A CROWD AROUND ME SOMEHOW..MMM ??
HMMM...
HOW WOULD EVERYONE HERE LIKE A TOUR OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS
OOH. DREAMY
I'M DYING OF THE THRILL!!

AN HOUR LATER...
..SO...HA HA HA...I LEFT HER FUMING ON THE SCHOOL STEPS! WHEN WHITTLER GETS BACK, HAVE HIM TURN THE FORMULA OVER TO PROFESSOR ACYD!. HA HA HA I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO SEE HER FACE RIGHT NOW!

...WELL HERE IT IS AND.. BY THE WAY, MY HUSBAND IS HERE TO CLAIM THE FORMULA!
HUH ?

THE PROFESSOR AND I WERE JUST MARRIED!! AND TO MY SURPRISE, RIGHT AFTER THE CEREMONY, HE GAVE ME POWER OF ATTORNEY! DIDN'T YOU DEAR?
OH NO!
YES HONEY!


DICK! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED? WE'RE OUTFOXED.. OUTWITTED... SHE MARRIED THE PROFESSOR!
NO SHE DIDN'T.


I WAS THE PREACHER
THE MARRIAGE WAS NOT LEGAL! WE CAN BOOK HER ON AN ATTEMPT TO DEFRAUD THE AUTHORITIES!

YOU'LL HAVE THIRTY DAYS TO THINK THIS OVER, PROF. IF YOU WANT TO MARRY HER, THEN, LET US KNOW SHE'LL BE HERE, IN CELL #4 TILL THEN!

DYNAMIC COMIC ADVENTURE MODEL SERIES
SUPERHERO HOBBY KITS!

Transform your room into a dynamic world of fantasy and adventure. People your shelves with superheroes. These 9" to 12" tall figures are molded from heavy duty "super" plastic. All kits come with complete instructions for assembly and an 8-page original comic plus a detailed background diorama. Glue the figure together, paint it, place it in front of its background and you will have a realistic 3-D display. Build all the kits. Make your room headquarters for the Superhero Legions! Order your exciting superhero hobby kit now!

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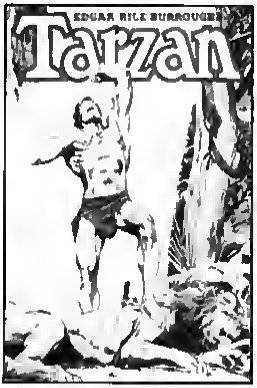

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ORDER ALL TEN & OWN A SUPERHERO ARMY!

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THE HERO

THE SPIRIT

TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK

HENRY J. TIMECLOCK WAS NO HERO

HIS HOMELIFE WAS FAR FROM HEROIC.

FIRST PUBLISHED MAY 13, 1951
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At 9:00 A.M. he opened the accounts....

At 5:00 P.M. he closed the accounts

And he'd rush to catch the 5:15 in a most unheroic fashion....

FRIDAY NIGHTS IT WAS ALWAYS MORE CROWDED....

I'LL JAM THIS DOOR SO NOBODY COMES IN! GO GET THE ENGINEER!!!
U.S. MAIL
FRAGILE
THIS SIDE UP

GO ON! BEHAVE, OR YOU GET ONE ON THE BACK OF THE HEAD, TOO!
?

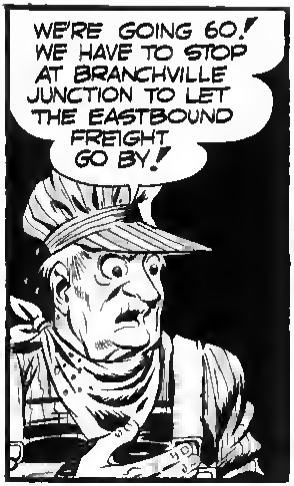
I...I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!!

CLOSE THAT DOOR, AND KEEP IT CLOSED!

I'LL FIX IT SO IT STAYS CLOSED!
SLAM

OH MY! NO ONE DRIVING! THE TRAIN'S RUNNING LOOSE!

LOOK...THIS IS A RUNAWAY TRAIN NOW!
THAT'S RIGHT! NO ONE GOES INTO THAT LOCOMOTIVE!


WE'RE GOING 60! WE HAVE TO STOP AT BRANCHVILLE JUNCTION TO LET THE EASTBOUND FREIGHT GO BY!

YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOURSELVES KILLED!
NO....WE WON'T! WE'RE JUMPING OFF AT GREAT MEADOWS!

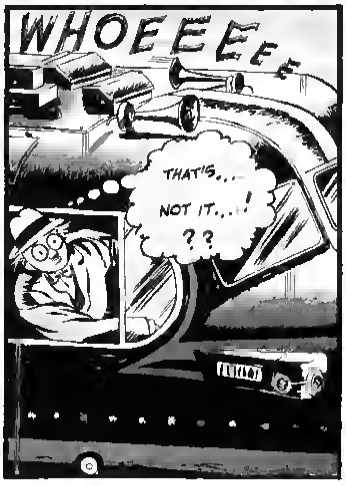
YOU'RE GOING TO BE KILLED IN THE WRECK! I WOULDN'T LIKE TO LEAVE ANY TELLTALE BULLETS IN YOU!!

WE'RE COMING TO A CURVE.... IT MIGHT THROW HIM OFF BALANCE....

NOW!

PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF

MEANWHILE...
...WISH....I KNEW.... ? WHAT TO.... THE BRAKE..?
??


WHOEEEEE
THAT'S.... NOT IT....!
??

THE WHISTLE ?
HOW?

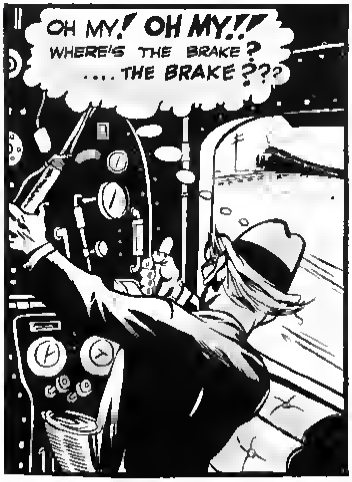
I'VE GOT TO GET SOMEBODY TO STOP THIS TRAIN! OH MY! IT'S LOCKED!

IT'S GOING THROUGH A RED LIGHT!
?
?

THERE'S GONNA BE A WRECK!!
IT'S A RUNAWAY!!

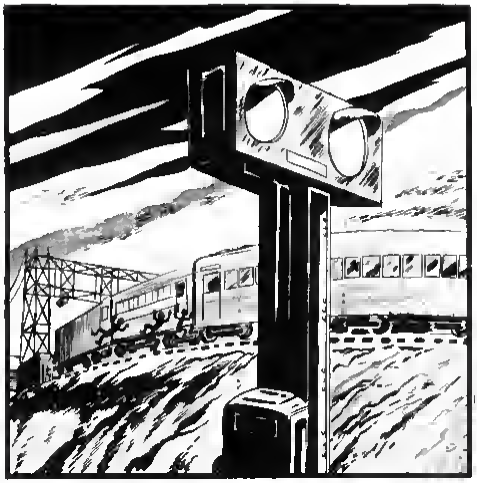
GET TO THE LOCOMOTIVE!

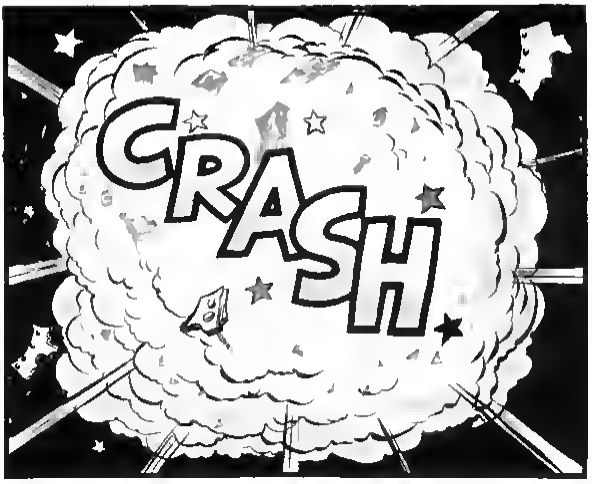
IT WON'T BUDGE! AND WE'RE DUE AT THE JUNCTION NOW....!!

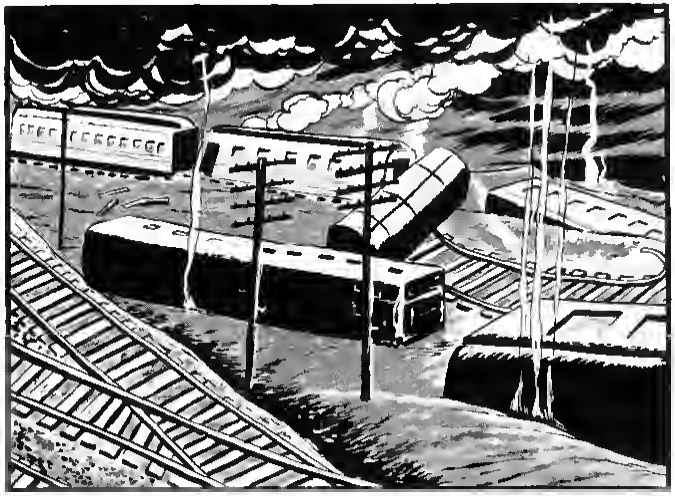

OH MY! OH MY!! WHERE'S THE BRAKE? .... THE BRAKE???

AAAHHH!

WE'RE SLOWING DOWN!
TOO LATE! WE'RE GOIN' TO CRASH!!




CRASH



WHAT HAPPENED ?
NEVER MIND! GET OUT THE INJURED!!

SOME INJURIES IN THE COACHES, THREE DEAD IN THE BAGGAGE CAR!
I WAS TRAILING THEM..TRAIN BANDITS AFTER SOME VITAL GOVERNMENT MATERIAL!
BUT WHAT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT--WE WERE DOING 60.. THEN THE TRAIN SLOWS DOWN TO 20!
WELL, WHO WAS IN THE LOCOMOTIVE?
WHO? NOBODY WAS IN THE CAB....WE LEFT IT EMPTY!
BUT THE WHISTLE! WHO BLEW THE WHISTLE? ANSWER THAT!

OKAY, SPIRIT LET'S HAVE IT! NOBODY BLEW THE WHISTLE- NOBODY BRAKED THE TRAIN...NOBODY IN THE CAB! AND YET IT HAPPENED!!
?
Not many miles away
NOW WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN SO LATE, HENRY? THE IDEA!! DO YOU THINK I HAVE NOTHING TO DO BUT KEEP SUPPER WAITING .....YAK YAK YAK YAKATA YAK....
OUTA THE WAY DAD LOOK OUT!!

QUIET!!
SUPPER READY GOOD! SET THE TABLE! I'M HUNGRY!!
NOW WHAT'S....? HE'S NEVER ACTED LIKE THAT BEFORE.. SHHH... CHILDREN!! ????
?
?
?

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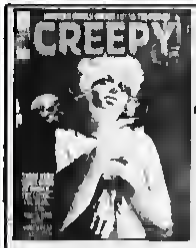

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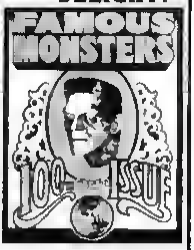
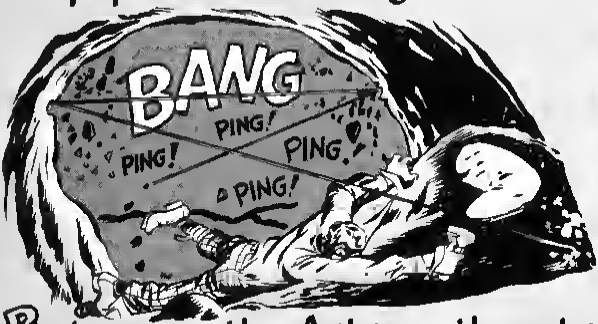


THE BIG WIN

200 miles north of Central City, not far from the state border, lies a massive system of caves known as "Crater Cavern"....

Extending eight miles under the ground, this intricate cavern, with its vari-levelled gorges and flowing streams, is a popular tourist sight....



But, comes the Autumn, the state closes the cavern....and the immense limestone caves remain silent for another year...

FIRST PUBLISHED OCTOBER 1, 1950
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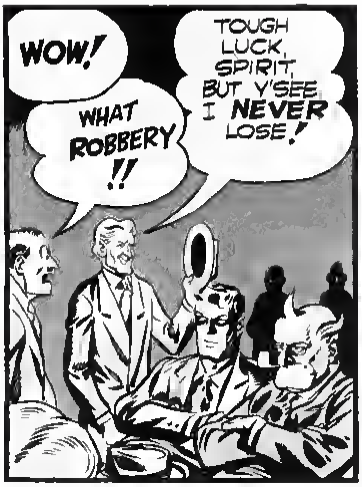
YOU CAN AFFORD TO LAUGH DAN! YOU KNEW YOU'D WIN! I THOUGHT ALL I HAD TO DO WAS BE PATIENT...
BE PATIENT YOU SAY, SPIRIT?? FOUR TIMES WE GET HIM ON AN IRON-CLAD RAP AND FOUR TIMES HE....
SHHHH.. DOLAN, HERE COMES THE JURY!

WE THE JURY FIND THE DEFENDANT DANIEL GREER NOT GUILTY!


WOW!
WHAT ROBBERY!!
TOUGH LUCK, SPIRIT, BUT Y'SEE, I NEVER LOSE!

YES, DAN, YOU NEVER ONCE LOST. YOU WERE RUNNING EVERY BOOKIE JOINT IN CENTRAL CITY, AND THERE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE ANY WAY TO NAIL YOU...
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SEE ME FOR, DAN?
SPIRIT, I WANNA MAKE A DEAL!

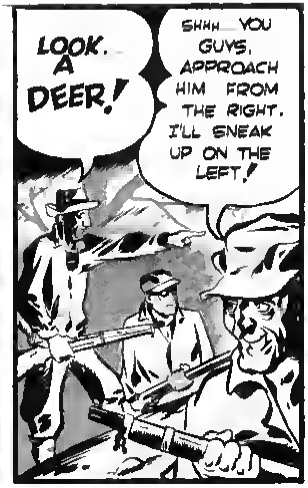
A DEAL?
YOU AND YOUR BUDDY, DOLAN ARE GETTING IN MY HAIR, COSTING ME TIME AN' MONEY, HOUNDING ME AND MY BOYS TILL WE'RE LOSING SUCKERS...I DON'T LIKE IT AND I'M WILLING TO PUT MYSELF ON THE SPOT TO SEE THAT IT STOPS!

HOW SO?
SEE THIS GUY? HE'S BIG ED DAMPER! HE AND I ARE GOIN' ON A HUNTING TRIP THIS WEEKEND. HE'S BEEN MOVIN' IN ON MY SOUTH SIDE TERRITORY AND WE'RE GONNA TALK OVER A DEAL!

I'M GONNA MURDER BIG ED ON THAT TRIP, SPIRIT! IF YOU CAN'T PROVE THAT I KILLED HIM, I WANT YOU TO LAY OFF ME FROM THEN ON!... CARE TO COME ALONG?
IT WILL BE A PLEASURE!

LATER...
SPIRIT ARE YOU CRAZY? YOU CAN'T MAKE SUCH A DEAL, THIS WILL MAKE YOU AN ACCESSORY TO A MURDER!
I'M GOING TO HIDE A CAMERA ON ME AND GET SOME EVIDENCE ON DAN!.. ..NOW DOLAN DON'T WORRY.. THERE WON'T BE ANY MURDER IF I CAN PREVENT IT!

...AND.. SO.. THAT WEEKEND THE THREE OF US STARTED OUT.


LOOK. A DEER!
SHHH... YOU GUYS, APPROACH HIM FROM THE RIGHT. I'LL SNEAK UP ON THE LEFT!

BANG!

GOOD BOY! Y'GOT 'IM DAN!
S'MATTER, SPIRIT? DID YOU THINK I WAS AIMING FOR SOMETHING ELSE?

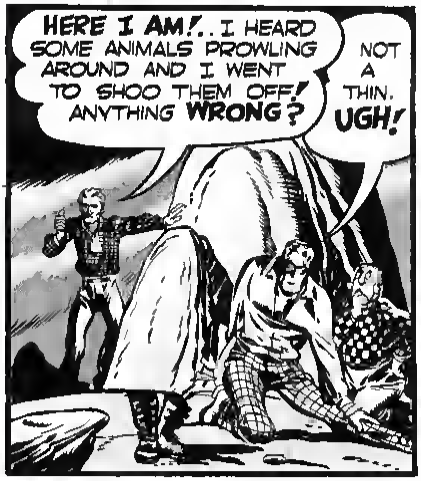
WE FEASTED ON THE VENISON, THEN SET UP CAMP FOR THE NIGHT...
I FIGURE WE'LL HIT CRATER CAVERN TOMORROW! IT'S HEAVY DEER COUNTRY UP THERE!
GOOD! I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE CAVERN SINCE I WAS A KID! I USED TO KNOW THE PLACE INSIDE OUT!
YAWN IT'S LATE! LET'S TURN IN!

I TRIED TO KEEP AWAKE, BUT EVENTUALLY I COULD NOT HOLD OUT AND JUST FELL ASLEEP...

?

LOOK OUT!

THAT ROCK NEARLY KILLED US!! W-WHAT H-HA-HAPPENED?
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW.. WHERE'S DAN?

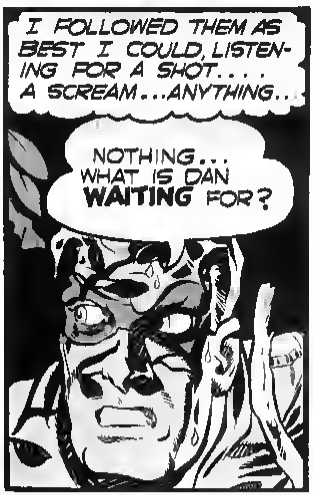

HERE I AM!.. I HEARD SOME ANIMALS PROWLING AROUND AND I WENT TO SHOO THEM OFF! ANYTHING WRONG?
NOT A THIN. UGH!

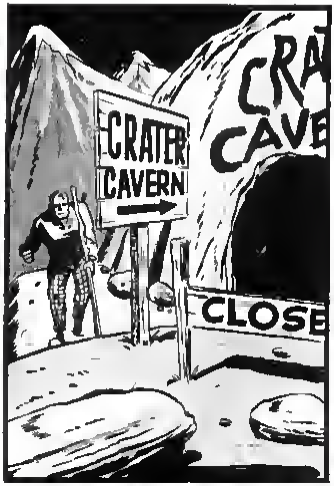
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SPIRIT?
MUST'VE SPRAINED MY ANKLE GETTING OUT OF THE WAY OF THE ROCK.. PHEEEW
TOO BAD! LOOKS LIKE BIG ED AND I WILL HAVE TO GO ON ALONE IN THE MORNING!

NEXT MORNING...

CAN'T LET THAT KILLER HAVE A CLEAR FIELD --C-A-N-'T

IF HE SUCCEEDS, BIG ED'S DEATH WILL BE ON MY CONSCIENCE!

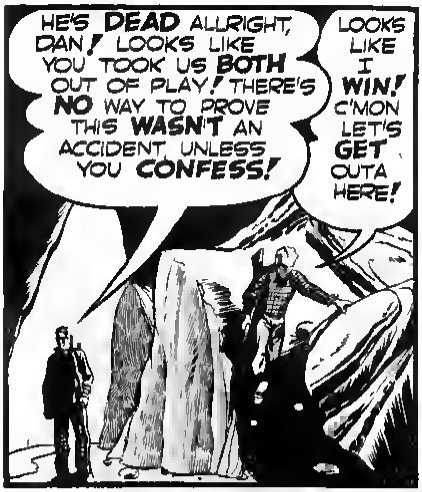

I FOLLOWED THEM AS BEST I COULD, LISTENING FOR A SHOT.... A SCREAM...ANYTHING...
NOTHING... WHAT IS DAN WAITING FOR?


CRATER CAVERN
CRA CAVE
CLOSE

AGHH

I STUMBLED DOWN THE TREACHEROUS PASSAGE, THE ECHO OF THE SCREAM RICOCHETING OFF THE LIMESTONE WALLS...
AGHHH
AGHHH
AHHH

GLAD Y'COULD MAKE IT, SPIRIT! LOOKS LIKE BIG ED HAD A LITTLE ACCIDENT! HE FELL FROM THE LEDGE UP HERE!


HE'S DEAD ALLRIGHT, DAN! LOOKS LIKE YOU TOOK US BOTH OUT OF PLAY! THERE'S NO WAY TO PROVE THIS WASN'T AN ACCIDENT, UNLESS YOU CONFESS!
LOOKS LIKE I WIN! C'MON LET'S GET OUTA HERE!

NO, MY ANKLE HURTS! I'LL REST FOR AWHILE. WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK ALONE!
OKAY, SEE YOU LATER, SORE LOSER!

TEN MINUTES LATER...
SPIRIT! I CAN'T FIND MY WAY OUT!! WE'RE LOST!
YOU'RE LOST, DAN!

REMEMBER I KNOW THIS CAVE LIKE A BOOK! LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY HERE TILL I'M READY TO LEAVE!
I GET IT! YOU WANT A CONFESSION!
LISTEN, SMART GUY, GET US OUT OF HERE OR I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF!
HAVE A STICK OF GUM, DAN?
I MEAN IT!
SURE YOU DO, DAN! GO AHEAD AND DIE IN HERE...YOU KNOW YOUR ONLY CHANCE LIES WITH ME! ...WHY NOT SIGN A CONFESSION?
@*#*%*! I DON'T NEED YOU!
WILDLY HE RAN....DEEP INTO THE CAVERN...I FOLLOWED HIM, MARKING A TRAIL AS I WENT...
I'LL GET OUT! D'YA HEAR? I'LL FIND MY WAY OUT ALONNNNE!
GAAH!
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE GOT LOST IN CRATER CAVERN!
LATER...
BIG ED!! YOU.. YOU AINT DEAD?
GIVE UP, DAN?
YOU ONLY HAVE TO TAKE AN ASSAULT RAP NOW!
I'LL NEVER GIVE UP!! ONE SIDE!
PLOP
YOU THINK YOU'LL OUTLAST ME BUT YOU WON'T!..NO ONE BEATS DAN GREER! NO ONE! I'LL WIN! I'LL ALWAYS WIN!!
HOLY SMOKES, THE GUY'S CRAZY!

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE WAITED IN THAT DARKNESS....FOR AWHILE I DOZED, THEN...
DAN!...HE'S GONE!

...THEN FAR OFF I HEARD SHOTS....
BANG
BANG
POYNNNG

WIN! WIN! I'LL WIN!
ALWAYS WIN
WIN
I CAN'T LET THIS GO ON..
WIN!
WIN!

HA HA HA HA GURGLE HEE HEE HA HA HA!!

DAN!!

DAN... COME ON OUT!!

BANG!
BANG!!
BANG

NO NEED TO SHOOT DAN...I GIVE UP! YOU WIN!...I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD DO IT DAN, BUT YOU BEAT ME! YOU ALWAYS WIN, DON'T YOU DAN?
HA HA HA HEE HEE HEE

WIN...WIN... I ALWAYS WIN HA HA HEE HEE. DO YOU HEAR? DAN GREER NEVER LOSES. HA HA HA GURGLE HEE HEE!
C'MON! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

A DAY LATER...
NO PROOF AGAINST HIM! LOOKS LIKE HE DID WIN, DOESN'T IT, SPIRIT?
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO DOLAN?
MENTAL DETE WARD

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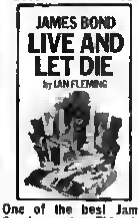

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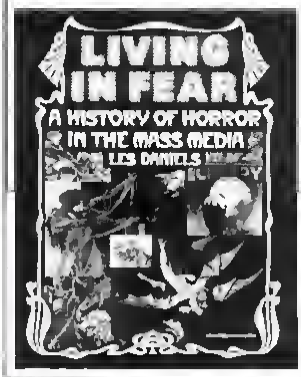

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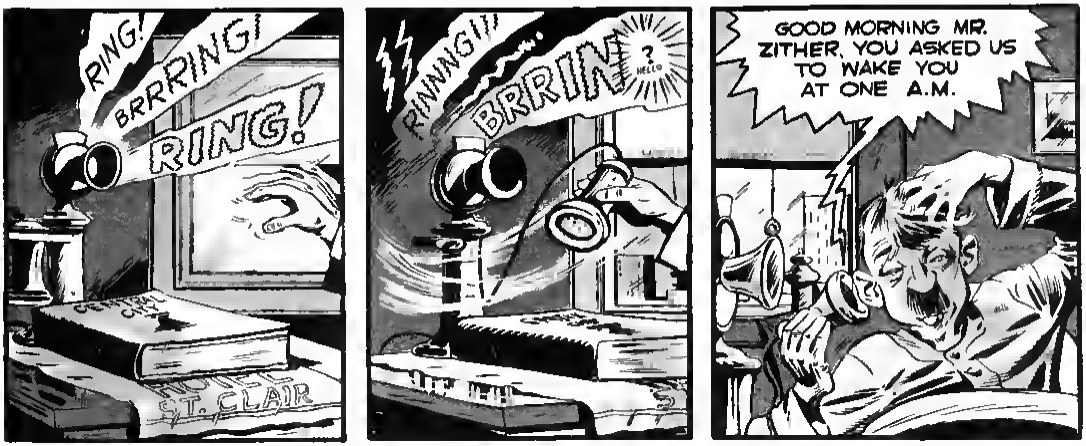
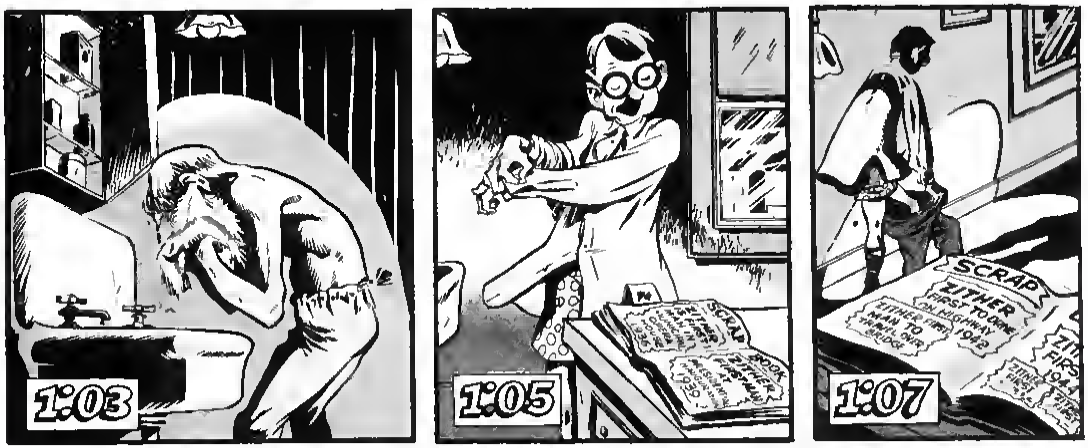
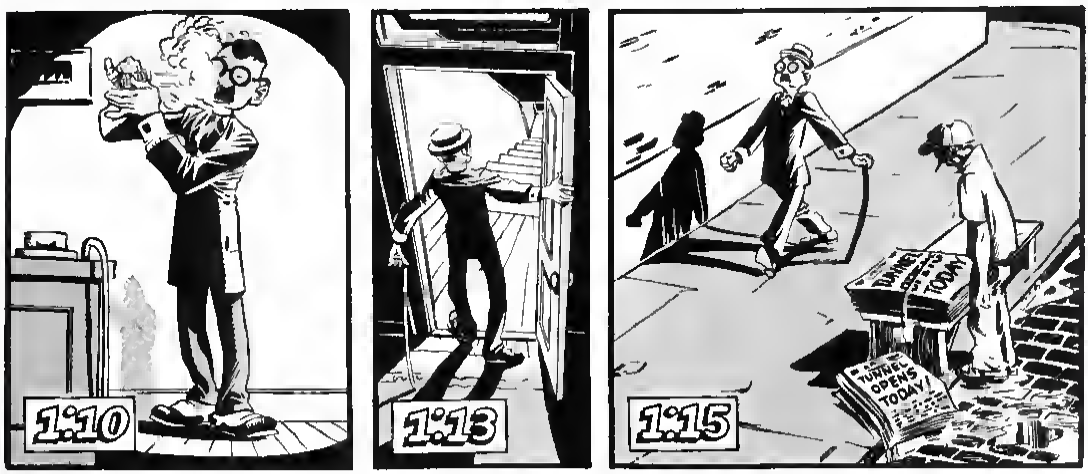
AT **1:02 A.M.** THE 'PHONE IN HERKIMER ZITHER'S BOARDING-HOUSE ROOM RANG OUT..



...SETTING OFF AN INCIDENT THAT, WE BELIEVE, TO BE OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE.....



...THE PASSAGE BY THE FIRST MAN THROUGH THE GARRISON-TO-BROOKVILLE TUNNEL.



2 HOURS PARKING
1:18
HERKIMER ZITHER
FIRST MAN TO
ROSS THE
NTRAL CITY BRIDGE
CENTRAL CITY SUBWAY
1:19
ZITHER
1:20
JACKS ALL NITE DINER
1:22
MORNIN' MAC... WHAT'LL IT BE?
A CONTAINER OF COFFEE AND FOUR CHEESE SANDWICHES
1:23
THAT'S FUNNY... THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE GUY WHO JUST LEFT ORDERED!
HMM...?
1:24
YEAH! HE SAID HE WUZ GONNA BE FIRST AT A TUNNEL OPENIN' OR SOMETHIN'. I...
WHAT!!
1:25
SLAM
ZOOM
1:26
...CRAZY PEOPLE!! SAY HARRY, WHERE ARE THEY OPENIN' UP A TUNNEL ANYHOW?
1:27

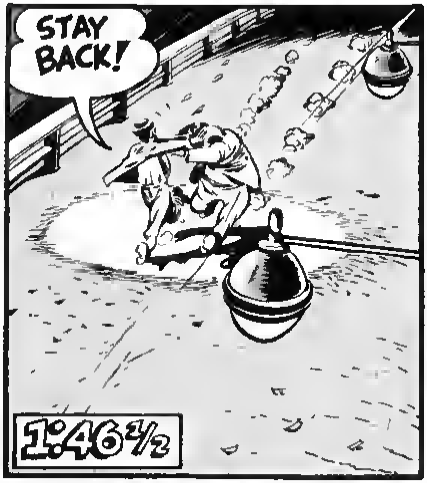
THERE HE IS I MUST CATCH HIM!!
ZITHER
1:30
. I'LL CUT DOWN A ONE WAY STREET, THROUGH AN ALLEY, AND OUT AGAIN ONTO THE BOULEVARD . . .
1:31
HA HA! HE'S STILL WAITING FOR THE LIGHT TO CHANGE! HA! I'VE BEATEN HIM! BEATEN HIM! HA HA HA HA!
ZITHER
1:32
NOTHING WILL STOP ME NOW!
CENTRAL CITY TUNNEL
1:33
..ABSOLUTELY N..N.. NOTHING! UH OH IT'S HIM
1:40
KEEP BACK YOU CHEAP BASEBALL PARK "FIRSTER" !!
OUT OF MY WAY ZITHER !!
1:41
NEVER !
1:42
ZITHER
1:43

1:44

NO YOU DON'T
1:45

STOP! STOP !!!
1:45½

UH!
KLUN
1:46


STAY BACK!
1:46½

STAY BACK YOURSELF !!
1:47

1:47½

GAAAEEE
GASP THAT'LL T..TEACH YOU!
1:48

MUST HAVE DECORATIONS.. FIRST MAN MUST ALWAYS HAVE DECORATIONS!
ZITHER
2:00

ZIP
2:05

2:06

HI YA, MISTER! YOU FROM THE NEWSPAPERS? MY NAME IS HIPPLE AND I'M FIRST!
TOLL GATE
CLANCY'S DELICATESSEN
2:07

AT 7:00 A.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME...TRAFFIC THROUGH THE GREAT NEW TUNNEL BEGAN....THE MAYOR HAD MADE HIS SPEECH...THE PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS SHOT THEIR PICTURES...BY 9:45 A.M. ALL INTEREST IN THE TUNNEL FADED...AND, AS FOR HERKIMER ZITHER...THE FIRST MAN..... HE WAS NEVER SEEN OR HEARD FROM AGAIN.

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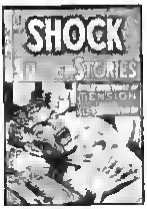

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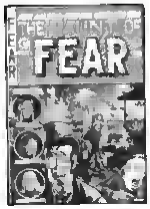

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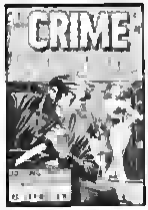

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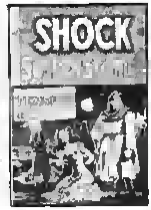

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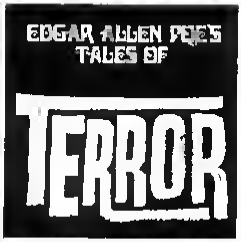

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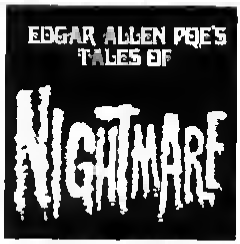

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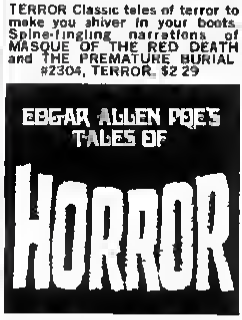

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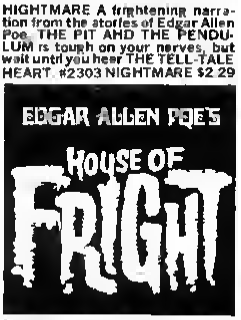

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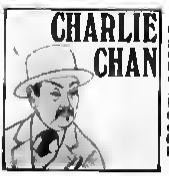

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